

KEEP STRONG

ANALYSIS:
CARTER
ON THE CITIES

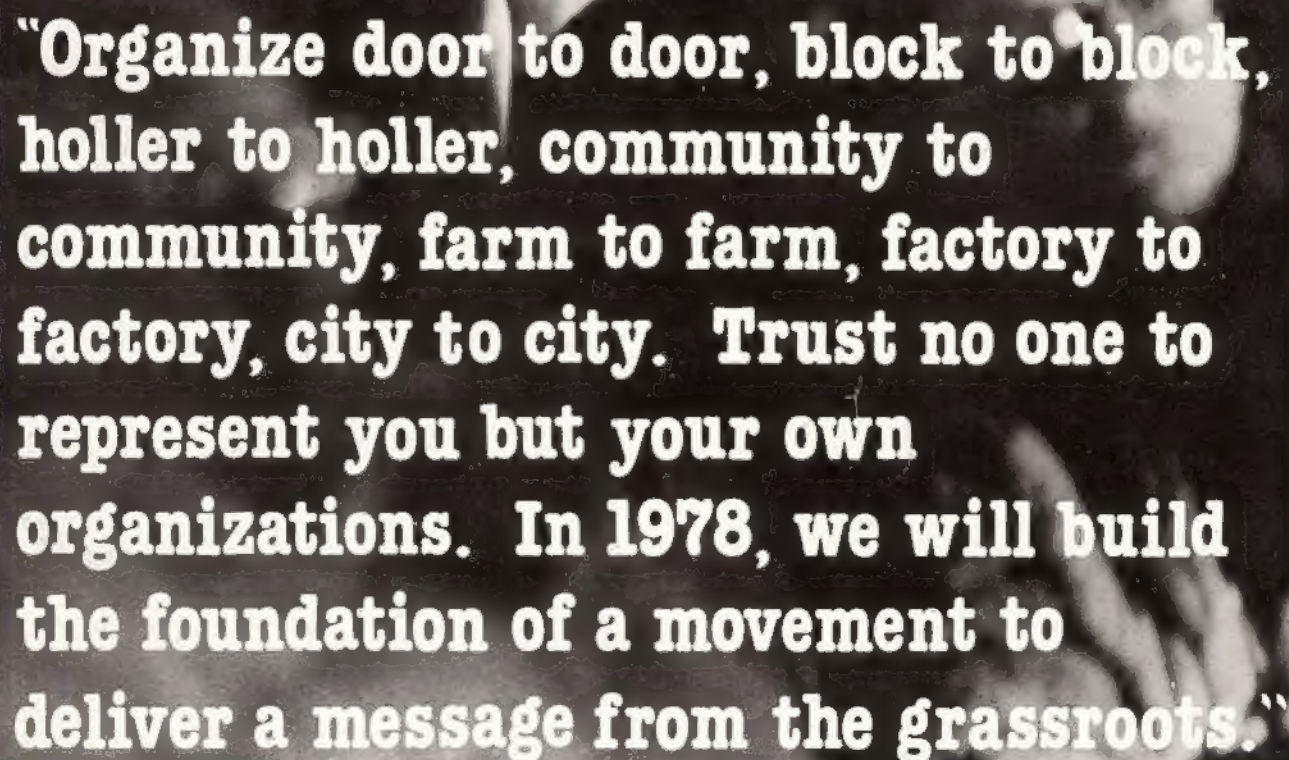
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"Organize door to door, block to block, holler to holler, community to community, farm to farm, factory to factory, city to city. Trust no one to represent you but your own organizations. In 1978, we will build the foundation of a movement to deliver a message from the grassroots."

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"Organize door to door, block to block,

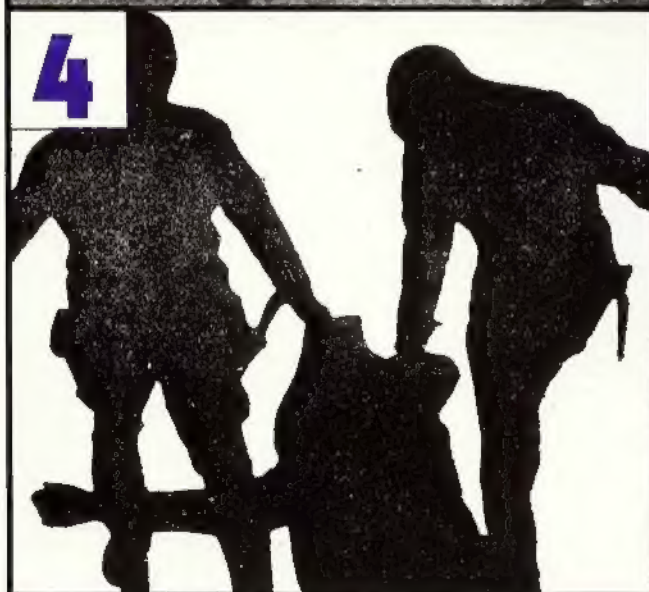
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MESSAGE FROM THE GRASSROOTS

In 1776, a certain group of people in this country cried out, "No taxation without representation." And they were concerned with more than taxation. They were concerned with troops occupying their towns and villages under the command of a government in which they had no representation. They were concerned with many problems over which they had no control because they had no representation.

Two hundred and two years later a lot of us still have no representation. We have inflation, but we have no representation. We have unemployment and welfare cuts, but no representation. We have police, armed even when off duty, shooting down innocent people, but we have no representation. We have decisions made to destroy our homes and communities, but we have no representation in these decisions.

So why aren't we doing what they did in 1776?

Perhaps because we have been fooled by a play, a movie, a T.V. program, with a bunch of professional actors. These actors act the part of representatives. They are paid as professionals to appear to represent us. And we have been content to sit back and watch the show, while our homes are destroyed and our children face uncertain futures.

Jimmy Carter is a professional actor. He was a good one. He played at meetings and on the radio and T.V. in almost every state in this country. But now that Carter's promises made during his performance are seen to be empty, we become turned off. The movie is over, and we have to walk back home through the war zone streets that make up our communities. And if Carter has flopped as an actor badly enough, then Warner Bros. will get someone else next season. Maybe his brother Billy.

While the leading actors get all the headlines and their names in lights, it

is the supporting cast that makes the show go on. And this country has developed a very large and very well paid supporting cast of actors who play the part of representatives.

In every community where there is a problem with housing, there are suddenly local housing experts. They seem to drop from the sky. They know how to write proposals to get funding money. They can set up offices and hire staff. They even hire a few people from the community as extras.



In 1776, a certain group of people in this country cried out, "No taxation without representation."

These experts don't get money to build housing or fix up existing housing. They get money for staff salaries. The only job they can do with this money is to be staff, look busy, write more grant proposals and take vacations.

And yet these are the ones who the government and the businessmen recognize as our representatives. They are professional representatives. And while our communities are destroyed, they work on projects that affect one or two buildings. These are not representatives, because we did not choose them. These are actors.

It is the same when it comes to unemployment. We have a problem with unemployment, and suddenly there are experts in employment programs, with juicy salaries, to represent us. They develop five or six jobs a year in communities where five or six thousand people need jobs. And they become recognized, paid representatives.

This army of professional representatives is an army of professional actors. Some may be well meaning but not intelligent enough to know they are only part of the show. But we must not be so unintelligent.

In 1978, we are going to build a strong foundation for a grassroots movement. It will be a movement that delivers a message. It will say that Jimmy Carter does not speak for us. It will say that the army of paid professional actors does not speak for us. It will say simply, we speak, and demand and act for ourselves.

By 1979, those in power will have gotten the message. □

ON THE STREET

"DO YOU THINK THE STATISTICS THAT SAY UNEMPLOYMENT IS GOING DOWN ARE TRUE?"



William Garvey
N. Malden

"It's going too high because of Carter's administration. I listened to his speech last night. He talked for 48 minutes and didn't say a damn word. The commentator's own response was, 'Now there's an idiot in the White House.'"

Rochelle Morgan
West End



"I'm not working now. No, it couldn't be true. I've been putting in applications like crazy. I'm a prime example. I'm looking for a job now, and no one is hiring me. I type, shorthand, terrific sexy voice. I couldn't imagine why I'm not getting hired. It amazes me."



Mrs. D. Anderson
N. Winthrop

"No, I do not. Look at the people that are unemployed — people that have been looking for work and had their applications in. There's just nothing. I've got a daughter who's been looking for work for six weeks, and she hasn't found anything."

Shirley Harris
W. Leland



"That's what Carter's always saying. He don't back it up, though."



Elouise Powell
S. Clyde

"Overall unemployment is not going down. They have certain people that they want in certain positions, and that's who they wait to place there. The job is open, but it's not open to everyone. You may have your papers and your statistics, but they're the ones that decide. So therefore, if your qualifications aren't up to par as far as they can see it, then it's not open to you. So if you put all these people in the same boat, then there's a lot of unemployment."

Debbie Berryhill
N. Kenmore

"I don't think so. There's too many young people out here looking for jobs today, including myself. I can't find a job."



Barbara McKay
N. Artesian

"No, I don't. I don't believe that the statistics are going down. I don't believe most of what the media tells me, and I don't believe most of what the newspapers say. I don't believe the politicians or the organized churches or any of them. I can only say that most of the people I know aren't employed."



Ethel Garcia
W. Agatite

"Right now I am on unemployment, and I haven't worked for the past three months, and I've been looking for a job every day now, and they never call me up. My uncle George isn't working for six months now."



Bill Pettus
N. Magnolia

"If I had a job, you think I'd be standing here? No, I'd be out working. Most people I know can only get work at Al-Help or hustling. I think it's really messed up."



Michelle Quinn
N. Wayne

"I feel that they're not taking into account the people who've never been on the unemployment list before. There are so many people who do not even look for jobs anymore, they don't even count them. People don't look for work because it's very discouraging to go and try to find work when you know that you don't have the skill necessary to get one. All the young people that are working age aren't on the list either. They're either on welfare or not doing anything. The only people who they're counting are the ones who worked already."



Elmer Two Crow
N. Kenmore

"Unemployment is going up. Everyone wants a job. To get by today you got to have money. The whole idea today is based on money."



Welfare Rights

Figures recently released show that in Illinois last year, 85,805 families were cut off of the AFDC (aid to families with dependent children rolls; while in New York, 48% (nearly half) of all new applicants for welfare are turned down.

These figures prove what KEEP STRONG has been saying all along, that welfare departments continue to come up with more and more ways to cut people off. The welfare column this month again provides further facts into this matter.

"Non-cooperation" — Another Method Of Removal

(Chicago, Ill.) Welfare mothers and community organizations throughout Chicago have called the increasing use of the "non-cooperation" regulation to cut Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) grants a "vicious attack on our children's right to survive." The Department of Public Aid claims that these rules only affect the mothers, since it is only their portion of the grant which is removed. Welfare mothers will tell you, "They are taking food out of the mouths of children." And that is exactly

what happens — all food stamps are denied to "non-cooperation" households. The Department of Agriculture will tell you their regulations require every member of the household to be eligible for anyone to get the food stamps. In other words, no food stamps for the mother, no food stamps for the kids.

According to the Department of Public Aid, non-cooperation is the failure of an ADC recipient to cooperate in identifying, providing information on, locating

or prosecuting a non-supporting father. "Providing information" and "locating the father" are being used as catch-alls, according to welfare mothers interviewed recently.

Joyce LaTorre, who recently won an appeal in a non-cooperation case, put it this way. "The family service woman told me, 'We're not going to be out snooping.' I don't know when they stopped doing that they're either lying or snooping. Now they want me to do it for them."

LaTorre won her appeal because the Department of Public Aid clearly violated its own rules. They didn't just reduce her grant and take away the food stamps, they took away the entire grant. From September 1977 until January of this year Ms. LaTorre, her daughter Marie and her granddaughter Angela received nothing. The fact that the LaTorre's will receive the back money that was denied them will not erase five months of hardship. If it had not been possible for Ms. LaTorre's daughter Phyllis and her husband to help out these last several months, Joyce isn't sure what they would have done to survive.

What makes Joyce even more bitter is that she firmly maintains that the charge of non-cooperation was completely false. In August she was informed that her aid was to be discontinued because her husband was living with her. This was news to her since the last time he had lived with her was seven years ago. The welfare department had no first hand evidence that Joyce's long gone husband was living there and no witnesses. What public aid had was "paper" evidence — a car registration listed at that address a statement from her



In the welfare office. The latest method of cutting people off is called "non-cooperation."

husband's employer listed at that address and one or two other similar items. This was enough for department regulations to cite lack of cooperation from Joyce.

At the appeal Joyce maintained her story — the car registration was given back to the mailman. Affidavits from neighbors testified that her husband was not living there. Still the hearing officer ruled that there was enough evidence to establish his living there, though the county was wrong in cutting off the entire grant. With this ruling, the family was reinstated. But most likely, once the back grants are paid, the Department of Public Aid will move down like vultures again, this time to remove Joyce from the grant.

"I don't care what they do to me as long as they don't do it to my children, because they can't fight back. They told me feeding the kids was my problem. They've missed a lot of school. When they're sick I can't take them to the doctor because I can't afford to get the prescriptions filled."

Jean Wilbur is another welfare mother whose grant was cut for non-cooperation. Once she was cut off, the remaining grant for her four children, now ranging in age from nine months to six years, was assigned to a

"protective payee." While the purpose of this action is, according to the welfare department, to insure the money goes to the children, Jean looks at it differently.

"I never met this woman; she never came to visit. They just send her the check, and then she sends it to me. She gets paid probably \$300 a week for stamping a piece of paper and sending the checks back out. Then the check is delayed. Regularly I get my check on the 29th or 30th. This time I got it on the 5th and last month on the 3rd.

"Since they took me off, all I get is \$249 a month for my four children and no food stamps. For two months after my baby was born he was not on the medical card, and his six week's check-up showed something was wrong. But I can't go to the hospital, because I can't afford to pay a babysitter. I asked my caseworker if we could get some extra money to move from this two room apartment into a two bedroom place. She said it would have to come out of the funds I'm receiving now."

As with Joyce LaTorre, Jean Wilbur feels the non-cooperation ruling was unjust. "I told them, 'If I had the information (about the children's missing fathers), I'd give it to you. Do you think I'd have my children go hungry if I knew?'" □

"When my social security checks started coming, I told the welfare worker that I didn't care about the welfare check or food stamps. All that I needed was the green medical card. But they said no. Now that I was making a family income of \$600 a month, I would have to pay \$300 a month for the green card. How am I supposed to pay \$300 a month for the green card when I only get \$600?" He asked if they were going to give him food stamps. No, they said he didn't qualify for food stamps either. When he asked how they expected him to live, "That's your problem" was the worker's only response.

"I go to the Board of Health now for my health care and medication, but I can't get the right cardiogram tests for my heart, because they don't have the right kind of machine."

Lewis and thousands of others like him desperately need medical care for themselves and their families, but are unable to get it



Lewis Mitchell has to go to the Board of Health for his heart trouble. He can't get the proper treatment there but he has no choice, because he doesn't have \$300 a month to pay for a medical card.

Who Can Get A Green Card?

(Chicago, Ill.) Lewis Mitchell (not his real name) recently suffered a stroke at the factory where he worked for the past 14 years. He was laid off until he could get a medical authorization to resume work.

Until his social security check

came through, Lewis went on welfare to help him support his wife and child. He received food stamps and a medical card (for which he paid \$10 a month) which enabled him to get the necessary medication and monthly cardiogram tests he needs for his heart trouble.

for the sole reason that they don't have the money to pay for it. Lewis is left with the choice of going to the Board of Health and receiving inadequate care, paying \$300 a month for a green medical card or paying fully himself for all of his medicine and

doctor bills — neither of which he can afford to do. "I've worked hard all my life. I gave it everything I had. Now that I'm sick and need some help, I can't get it. I guess none of that matters. If you don't have the money, you won't get what you need." □

for the inaccuracy of these figures and the politics behind their use can be found in the same *Tribune* article: "Not only does it [unemployment data] affect policy made in the White House and performance of the market, it also helps frame our own perceptions about job availability and the general health of the economy. And, in some cases, it can decide who sits in the White House.

Unemployment

Unemployment Statistics Misleading

(Chicago, Ill) As recent statistics prepared by the Bureau of Labor describe the rate of unemployment going down in the U.S., disclosures mount that these statistics fail to account for large sectors of the unemployed.

According to a recent *Chicago Tribune* report, the national unemployment rate is based on the number of people out of work who are actively looking for jobs. Hundreds of thousands of people (and maybe more), who have

become discouraged about the prospects of a job and who have quit looking, are not included in these figures.

Also not included in the figures are the over three million people accounted for who have part-time work because they cannot find a full-time job. Many of these people work as little as one day a week and yet are considered employed.

Perhaps the best explanation

"The employment survey is not just an idle exercise in gathering data. On these numbers rides the spending of about \$17 billion in federal funds — everything from revenue sharing to job creation and training efforts." □

Will N.Y.C. Go For Jobs Or Glitter?

(N.Y.C., N.Y.) As New York City debates the pros and cons of the city's proposed billion dollar Westway highway project, a joint decision by Mayor Koch and Governor Carey is expected any day. Meanwhile, residents wait to see how seriously the politicians take the growing problem of unemployment in seriously ravaged New York City.

Westway is a proposed multi-lane interstate highway that will extend from the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to 42nd Street on the west side of Manhattan. Its estimated cost is \$1,156 billion, and it will remove the Gansevoort Meat Market which currently employs 4,500 people.

An alternative to Westway is mass transit rehabilitation. Opponents to Westway point out



People looking for work swarm a plant in Oklahoma. Hundreds of thousands of unemployed are not included in statistics.

that 87% of the people who travel to jobs in Manhattan take trains and buses while only 2% used the West Side Highway when it was fully opened.

However, one of the most compelling arguments against Westway and for mass transit rehabilitation is the number of jobs the two alternatives will produce. While supporters of Westway have put a great deal of energy into scrambling figure to make their project look good, the facts show otherwise.

According to a six month study by Michael Gerrard on the jobs issue, Westway would cre-

ate approximately 78,000 man-years of employment, both inside and outside New York City, while trading it in for transit rehabilitation plus a modest road would create 103,000, or 52% more.

Most of Westway's jobs would be outside the region, in plants manufacturing the steel, concrete and other component materials and equipment. Westway would create only 20,000 local man-years of work, while the Transit Authority estimates that \$1 billion in trade-in projects would create at least 30,000 local man-years of employment (or 50% more than Westway). □

of steel in the thumb of his right hand. It bothered him, so he went to Cuneo Hospital in Chicago to have it looked at. That was in February 1977. Today Mr. Morrow has no use of his right hand and has had his workmen's compensation cut off.

That day in February, Cuneo told him that they would have to operate on his thumb to get the metal out. Without any further explanation, they began the first of four operations, each one causing Cliff more pain and further injuring his thumb. "Every time I woke up from the ether, they'd haul me back into the operating room again."

Cuneo finally released Cliff six weeks later. They told him when he left that he needed some therapy. They said with therapy his thumb would be fine, and he would be able to bend it.

During his stay in the hospital, Cliff's medical bills were being taken care of by the insurance from this job at Tool Master. But he needed to pay his rent and utilities, and his wife has been unable to work for several years, due to illness. In other words, he needed to survive, so he filed for workmen's compensation, which he is entitled to because he was injured on the job. In order to continue to receive his benefits he needed to see a doctor to fill in reports about his hand. He went to Northwestern Hospital where the doctor who was supposed to see him walked into the room for a few seconds, looked around and left.

The next day a man called from Workmen's Compensation and told Mrs. Morrow that Cliff was being cut off because he didn't show up for his appointment. Mrs. Morrow, whose patience had run out, angrily told the man, "Cliff went to his

OnThe Job

Just A Sliver Of Metal

(Chicago, Ill.) "I never thought that a little sliver in my thumb could cause so much trouble."

Cliff Morrow was working for Tool Master in Franklin Park last winter, when he got a sliver



Cliff Morrow, disabled in his right hand, is appealing for retro-active workmen's compensation and is planning to file a malpractice suit against careless doctors.

appointment. Ask the cab driver who took him there — he stole \$10 from him."

Cliff's last check came on October 17. Since then he has seen a doctor who said that a nerve in his hand had been severed, and his thumb and hand have been permanently disabled. No therapy in the world will give him back the use of his right hand.

A full year has passed since the accident. Cliff has seen nu-

merous doctors, lawyers and bureaucrats who have done nothing but increase the pain and the red tape. Mrs. Morrow explained, "When they know you're on welfare or have medicare, they treat you like dirt. They think that because you're poor, you're dumb." Cliff has filed an appeal to get retroactive workmen's compensation and to have his benefits reinstated. The appeal is scheduled for the 18th of this month. He also plans to file a malpractice suit against Cuneo Hospital and the doctors there. □

what is being described as "The biggest round of rent raising in years." As the so-called urban renewal process continues to grind on in this community, rents have skyrocketed over the last year.

On the one hand, the building owners, after investing money to fix up their property, must raise rents in order to meet their increased costs. On the other hand, the tenants, after watching their apartments brought up to a decent condition, also watch the five day notices roll in as rents are raised as much as \$150 more per month.

Henry Holzkamper bought 4601 N. Malden for \$100,000 cash. According to Holzkamper, the cost of the building plus the needed repairs are forcing him to raise rents to as high as \$325 per month. "We honestly tried to keep the rent as low as possible. We know people have lived here a long time and don't want to see them moved, but the building won't operate on less income."

While Mr. Holzkamper's figuring may be questionable, community organizations involved in the struggle for decent low-income housing in the area say the real cause of the problem is the city's overall plan to eliminate low-income housing from Uptown and similar communities across the city by making it impossible to rehabilitate buildings without continually raising rents.

"What the city of Chicago is actually doing," says Slim Coleman, a leading member of the newly-formed Heart of Uptown Block Club Coalition, "is using the federal funds and regulations supposedly designed to help stabilize our community to remove us from our community." Citing the section 8 rent subsidy

Tenants' Rights

Run On Rent Raises Exposed

(Chicago, Ill.) "It's a shame I have to move, but who can afford to pay that much rent? What are people in this neighborhood supposed to do? Nobody will be able to live here anymore."

The above words, spoken by Elvie Campbell, who lives at 4601 N. Malden, voiced the concern of many Uptown residents who are finding themselves caught in the midst of



Elvie Campbell, one of the many Uptown residents forced to move because of raised rents.

program as an example of a program hardly ever used or used wrong, Coleman went on saying, "This is a program designed to meet this very problem of high rents. Through it, landlords can charge high rents with federal money subsidizing up to 75% of the rent and the tenant paying the other quarter. Through it, dilapidated buildings can be rehabilitated with the tenants continuing to live there. The only problem is that the city, through the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) which administers the program, says the program is closed."

Coleman's allegations are quickly backed up by testimony from local landlords, with one building owner on North Magnolia telling KEEP STRONG, "They told me the program was closed to new tenants as of March 1977, the implication

being that the program was no longer in existence; that it no longer had the funds."

In fact, simple investigation reveals that the program is not only closed but in dire need of new buildings, with over 10,000 people waiting to rent. According to the city's own official report to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a survey has just been completed in Uptown, designating sites to be used for the Section 8 subsidies.

Summing up the situation, Coleman stated, "So while the city is denying even the existence of the program, more and more people are being moved out of their homes. It is just one more part of the masterplan to move us out."

And Elvie Campbell has to move by February 1.□

course instructor, explained why, "The main attraction is that what people learn in any one night might be used the next day or even when they walk out the door."

The key aspect of the class is its focus on direct field experience as a means of teaching the students about the Illinois legal system. This emphasis on how law is really practiced is a clear departure from the usual legal education course. Even in law school, students concentrate on talking about court cases and judge's decisions written down over the past two hundred years. As a result, it takes most new lawyers months and even years to find out how things actually work in the courtroom.



Urban Law class at the Uptown Community Learning Center. Students are taking what they learn in the classroom and putting it to work in the community.

Legal Rights

A New Approach To Learning The Law

(Chicago, Ill.) Every week nearly forty students at the Uptown Community Learning Center have been analyzing present laws and procedures concerning arrests, searches, evictions and dozens of other legal problems faced daily by people in oppressed communities. Most of the students are from Uptown and know from their own experiences how the lack of knowledge of these laws and procedures has been used against them and the rest of the

community. Now through their Urban Law class, a college program begun only last September, the students are gaining a new experience: putting to work the knowledge they have gained in the classroom, helping people from Uptown with their court cases.

Since it first began, the course has become one of the most popular programs in the college curriculum offered at the Learning Center. Tim Kelly, the

In contrast, within a month after the start of the Urban Law class, students were involved in a wide range of field projects. These practical legal activities are coordinated by the Legal Education and Defense Program, a community project of the Uptown People's Community Service Center. "Some students act as courtroom observers evaluating whether current

court procedures are following the present laws. In just six months, we've learned a great deal about how people's rights are sometimes systematically violated throughout the city. In one case last quarter, a student discovered that a court clerk was taking the place of a judge in eviction hearings. This was explained away by the clerk telling the student that during the holidays there just weren't enough judges to handle all the cases. Whatever the reason, that's not the way it's supposed to happen."

Other students are assigned to particular cases to do investigative work or give assistance at an administrative hearing. One important field project is helping someone get to the right court at the right time, especially when you consider how many courts there are in Chicago. The field experience accomplishes two objectives: the student gets a practical view of court actions he or she may not be familiar with, and the community program can expand its effect to a larger part of the neighborhood.

During the first month of the new quarter, students have produced some impressive results in their work. Three students have started a tenants union in a 40 unit building plagued by serious health and safety hazards. Another student has begun a community tax service program, helping elderly and disabled students qualify for special state tax rebates. Another group of students has started researching ownership of key buildings throughout the area, picking up information on the city's urban development plans for the neighborhood.

Several lawyers have given presentations to the class on their specialty in law. The topics have included criminal defense,

freedom of information procedures and juvenile rights. During this quarter students will see the film "Attica" as a class on prisoners' rights and prison conditions.

The Urban Law classes continue through a full year of courses, giving the students the opportunity to follow through in

their commitment to a particular community project. "Fortunately," Kelly added, "the course doesn't really stop with the last class. Last quarter we finished the course with a discussion of what we could have done better. We wound up designing the course we're doing now. Already it's made a difference, and the results are showing it." □

Case #26014

(Lodi, California) The court papers read, "Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of San Joaquin, Juvenile Court. Case number 26014, JAMIE WHITE aka JAMIE FRY." And with the official tone that court papers always have, it continues:

1. Said minor has resided with nonrelatives due to mother's lack of adequate housing.
2. Said minor's mother has not provided adequate care or support on numerous prior occasions.
3. The whereabouts of the

minor's father are unknown."

Little boxes checked on the standard form mark out the verdict. "Custody of minor is awarded to the Department of Public Assistance. Minor to remain in dependent children's home, pending completion of placement plans."

Sandy Fry, Jamie's mother, reaches into her wallet and slides a small color photograph across the table. This is a school picture of her. She is nine years old." The pretty blonde-haired girl smiles in the photo. Somehow she just doesn't look like Case #26014. "They told me when I went to court, there was nothing I could do," relayed Sandy. Sitting with Sandy is Tom Carpenter. They live in a modest and clean one bedroom apartment in Lodi, California. Sandy lights up a cigarette and begins to tell the story.



Jamie Fry

"Beginning awhile ago, we had some rough goings. Tom had just been working seasonally, and I'm on welfare. Our friends and relatives had helped us out some by taking Jamie. Last summer she was with some close friends in Stockton (about fifteen miles away.) Someone there called the welfare department, and they took Jamie away. Our friends weren't even going to let them take her, but welfare said they'd let her out in three days.

They took her to Mary Graham Hall (dependent children's home). We went to court on November 1 and they made her a ward of the state. The social worker told us there was nothing we could do about it," her voice trails off.

Tom explains that his aunt and uncle, who were close to Jamie, volunteered to become her foster parents. They also live in Lodi. All concerned thought it would be a good idea. Tom's uncle, Bill Carpenter, went to visit Jamie at Mary Graham Hall. He arranged to have Jamie for a couple of weekend visits at the end of November and the beginning of December.

The Carpenters repeatedly expressed interest in becoming foster parents, but could never get a straight answer. Jamie was assigned a new social worker, Ann Ramacher. Meanwhile, Jamie remained in Mary Graham Hall, which sits between the alcoholic ward and the methadone maintenance building on the county grounds just south of Stockton.

Contacted by phone, Bill Carpenter tells what happened next. "Ramacher was an *unsocial* worker. No one could get a straight answer out of her. I called her about once a week before Christmas and told her we'd like to have Jamie for Christmas. She told me that it was too early to decide if the kids were going for Christmas. So we kept calling. My wife called, Sandy called. Finally about two days before Christmas she told me it was too late to call, that Jamie was going to another family for Christmas. I couldn't believe it. Ramacher finally stopped answering our calls altogether."

In early January, Jamie was



Jamie's mother Sandy, and Tom Carpenter: "They have no understanding."

assigned to a foster home. The frustration in Bill Carpenter's voice emanates, even on the phone. "We saw everybody down there trying to find out what was going on. But I'm just another peon on the streets. I couldn't find any man down there that was willing to fight for us. They have a public-b damned attitude. I'm a truck driver, and I make good money. We have a nine room house. Our two kids are grown and out of the house. We have plenty of room, but they've never even had anybody check to see if we're qualified.

"Ramacher complained she was overworked. She told us that she didn't want to put Jamie with someone who knew the natural mother. Jamie knows who her mother is. It's good for Jamie to see her mother. When Sandy gets better off, Jamie can go back to live with her.

"Everybody's screaming about welfare, and here we wanted to take her off. They could have sent another child to this other family and had two children placed. It's all unfair." Carpenter is mad.

San Joaquin County children's

services offices are in a modern office in downtown Stockton. Inside a large carpeted office, Child Welfare Division Chief William Goodman sits behind his desk. To his right is Ann Ramacher, social worker. "I don't know the specifics of this case," says Goodman, "but we wouldn't discuss the specifics of the case except with the concerned parties. Our job is to put families back together. If the Carpenters are dissatisfied, they can petition the court."

Back in Lodi, a winter rainstorm beats against the windows. "You go down there and get information and they run you from department to department. Most of them try to fit what they learned in college books on you, and it just doesn't fit. They have no understanding," says Sandy,

Legal authorities point out that from the beginning parents and guardians must challenge every step of the way any attempt at removing custody of children. Once custody is lost, it becomes even more difficult to fight the system that reduces nine-year-old children to a case number on a stack of court papers in bureaucratic bungling. □

Police Watch

Police Deadly Force Grows Out Of Control

(Chicago, Ill.) Outrage continues to grow in the city of Chicago over the rash of police killings which have occurred in the last six months. Police have killed nine people on the streets of Chicago since last June. Of these nine people, seven have been teenagers. Serious questions have been raised as to whether or not Chicago police officers should be allowed to carry guns when they are not on duty.

Of the nine, four were killed by police officers who were off duty at the time. In most of the cases which have occurred the police accounts differ greatly from those of eyewitnesses to the shootings. Following is a brief account of some of these police murders in the last two month period.

On January 12, off duty patrolman Edgar Williams of the 11th district shot and killed 24-year-old Kevin Hill after Hill had reportedly approached Williams' car with a gun and threatened to kill him. Williams claimed that in the ensuing struggle his gun accidentally went off, killing Hill. Afterwards, tests showed that Williams' gun had in fact been fired three times. Witnesses on the scene said that they did not see Hill with a gun in his possession.

On January 1, 17-year-old Steven Katowski was fatally shot by off duty burglary investigator Joseph J. Kosala at about 2 a.m. in an ally near 2121 N. Wayne. Kosala claimed that

he shot the youth after the youth pointed a sawed-off .22 caliber rifle at him in a threatening manner. A close look at the gun revealed that it was jammed and unshootable.

Also on January 1, police trainee Patrolman Michael T. Smith, who was off duty and drunk at the time, fatally shot 37-year-old L.V. Collins in the face on the Washington el



Fifteen-year-old David Karpel was shot and killed by a policeman who said he accidentally slipped on the ice, causing his gun to go off.

platform. Witnesses said that Collins did not provoke Smith in any manner whatsoever. He was riding the el when Smith accused him of harassing a woman passenger. He then ordered Collins off the train, pushed him against a post and shot him.

On December 10, 15-year-old Ralph Biggs was shot by off duty Bomb and Arson investigator Charles Gardner at the corner of Lake and Damen. Gardner claimed that he had gone to sleep

in his parked car and awoke to find three youths going through his pockets. Gardner reached for his gun and fired three shots, one killing Biggs. A breath test taken two hours after the incident showed that he was legally drunk.

On December 3, 15-year-old David Karpel was shot and killed by officer Robert Doneska who said he fell on the ice, accidentally discharging his gun, after he had stopped the victim for running a red light.

Citizens who have been outraged by this sudden increase of deadly force by the police department have called for a revamping of police department rules regarding the use of deadly force and for new regulations regarding off duty policemen carrying guns. □

"Tell Them You Fell On The Ice"

(Chicago, Ill.) On December 12, 1977, Freddie Stone was at home with his family. An alleged disturbance in the hallway, involving one of his daughters, brought the police to the building.

They arrived shortly and immediately became involved in the argument when officer Diaz hit Freddie's daughter. Freddie demanded that they stop. Diaz turned on Freddie, surprising him with a blow to the face and handcuffing him while he was down on the ground.

According to witnesses, there was never any resistance and no attempt to strike any officer. At that point the only thing Freddie



Fred Stone: Two cops beat him up, they warned him to say he fell on the ice.

asked was whether he could put on his coat before being taken to

the station. Instead of his coat he got another series of blows.

Freddie was hit again in the elevator and later, outside in the alley. He was pushed around at the police station and finally locked up. Before Freddie was taken to his cell he was warned to explain his injuries by saying "that you fell on the ice."

Freddie has gone to the Office of Professional Standards with his story. He is considering a lawsuit against the police, and officer Diaz and his partner are still on the beat. "Their job is to enforce the law, not beat people to death," said Freddie. □

prisoner in the cellhouse, and it was clear that they really had no case against anybody.

However, apparently the same night as the stabbing, Governor Thompson (just inaugurated that day) told prison authorities that he would make the governor's power of pardon available to prison authorities in order to have a reward for prisoners who testified. With this in mind, Lt. Moran, who was supposed to be in charge of the investigation for the institution, conducted several prisoners back and forth to meet with the state police who were doing the actual questioning. It took them three months to indict somebody.

Criminal Justice

Stateville Inmate Acquitted Of Guard Killing

(Joliet, Ill.) On December 23, 1977 Charles Jennings, a prisoner at Stateville Correctional Center was acquitted of murdering a prison guard last January. This month KEEP STRONG interviewed Chicago attorney Jeffrey Haas, one of four National Lawyers Guild attorneys who defended Jennings.

KEEP STRONG: What were some of the conditions that led up to this incident?

HAAS: Prior to this incident, Warden Brierton was the warden at Stateville. He allowed the institution to be run by a group of lieutenants who were very reactionary and brutalized the prisoners regularly. One of the main ones was Moran.

On a particular day, a group of these lieutenants took a Black prisoner and beat him up. This was January 8, 1977. The next day two guards were stabbed in two different cellhouses. In one incident the guard was injured, and charges were made against three prisoners sometime later, although the guard couldn't identify them and in fact said they weren't the ones who did it. After holding the charges over them for about seven or eight months, those charges were dismissed in Joliet last summer.

On the same day, January 9, 1977, a guard by the name of Lieutenant Burd was stabbed and killed in D-House. The state that night interviewed every

They needed a scapegoat because it was a White guard who was killed. Several prisoners were coerced and intimidated and threatened that if they didn't name Jennings, they themselves would be in trouble. Why they named Jennings and not somebody else is not clear.



Many inmates at Stateville have to live three to a cell because of overcrowding.

Warden Brierton personally brought color T.V. sets and put money in the commissary of the state's witnesses. There were also promises that people who testified would get better consideration at parole. This was even admitted to at the trial.

Another one of the main witnesses for the state, somebody who testified before the grand jury, had a group of other people who were being held in the minimum institution at Sheridan ask for a lawyer. A lawyer went to visit them, and they told the lawyer that they didn't want to testify at the trial and that they had lied before the grand jury.

The institution then went to these prisoners and said if they continued to see this lawyer, they'd put them back in the maximum security institution and tell the prisoners there that they were trying to rat on people. So with this kind of threat, the state kept their case alive.

KS: What kind of reprisals took place in Stateville after the incident?

HAAS: Everybody in D-house was locked up for at least a month afterward. It was at this point that Brierton, the warden himself and his lieutenants went into another cellhouse and beat up a group of prisoners and then transported them in a bus to Pontiac. Somewhere in the transfer the state police actually stopped the bus because they saw the prisoners being mistreated. This led to the firing of Brierton and his chief lieutenants. So pretty much in reprisal for this, many of the lieutenants attempted to beat prisoners and were caught at it and had to resign.

KS: What were some of the inconsistencies in the state's case during the trial?

HAAS: One of the main ones was that one of the witnesses had the incident taking place 20-30 feet away from where everybody else had it take place

and where blood was found. Another witness said that he saw it clearly from a point 30-35 feet away at a time everybody said hundreds of prisoners were going back to their cells and would have had to have been between him and where the incident took place.

They also said that right after Jennings supposedly did it he ran back up to his cell. But after the incident Jennings was in the diet kitchen (he was on a special

the incident happened and it became known, the cellhouse was locked. Jennings, of course, in his defense put on the list that showed that he was outside and put on two witnesses to show that he was not even in the cellhouse at the time it happened. Based on this the judge said that it was clear he had a reasonable doubt on the evidence.

KS: How was the defense prepared?



Stateville, Illinois' most crowded prison. Because of jammed conditions, many inmates must eat in the cellblocks.

diet). So, there's no way he could have run back to his cell, because they locked the cellhouse, and Jennings was on the outside. He would have had to do it (the stabbing), leave the cellhouse, walk past a guard, write his name down, get frisked down, then wait for the guard to open a door and let him out.

Not only did he leave the cellhouse, but six people in two groups of three left after him which meant that the guard who was 20-30 feet away (from the incident) would have had to continue to allow people to leave the cellhouse after the incident. This is ridiculous, because once

HAAS: The defense, which was basically to show the frame-up, was led by Jennings and other prisoners in the institution, in particular a prisoner's organization called the New African Prisoner's Organization. The prisoners instructed the lawyers as to how to expose the frame-up, and then the legal people did the work in terms of investigations, interviews, legal motions and the trial itself.

KS: Why did you choose a bench trial (where the judge decides the verdict) and not a jury trial?

HAAS: It was a difficult decision choosing between a bench and a

jury in Joliet when we were told that Black people don't get very fair trials in Will County. We went with the judge because we felt the case was such a frame-up that he would require some proof before he would find him guilty where a jury might come in wanting to convict a Black prisoner for killing a White guard just because of the charge.

The judge didn't want to acknowledge that it was a frame-up and didn't want to acknowledge that there was racism. He kept out other things he really didn't want to hear about — the conditions in prison, who was there, etc. So he pretty much limited the scope to what the witnesses claimed to have

seen.

KS: What is the significance of this case?

HAAS: It just shows the extent to which the governor, the Department of Corrections and the state police would go to try to find somebody guilty on a case where a guard was killed. They felt that was a threat to the entire security of the institution, and therefore they needed to get somebody, and that's what they were trying to do. The conditions were so bad, and the resistance that this brings is so strong that they have to continue to make these frame-up cases in an effort to control the people inside. □

posed school restructuring plan, physically blocked him from leaving a public hearing on January 7 until he listened to their criticisms of the plan.

Their determination to be heard was obvious early in the meeting as over 300 people, chanting and stomping, forced the moderator to cancel the presentation and open the mike for public discussion.

Public outrage from parents, teachers and students at Horace Mann, located in the city's Mission district, as well as other minority communities, is forcing Alioto and school board members to reconsider plans to close some inner city schools as part of a sweeping reorganization of San Francisco's public school system.

Education

S.F. Educational Redesign Plan

(San Francisco, Calif.) Parents at Horace Mann Jr. High School

here, irate over school superintendent Robert Alioto's pro-



Angry students blocked school superintendent Robert Alioto (arrow) from leaving a public hearing on the new school re-structuring plan. The plan calls for the closing of several neighborhood schools.

Alioto's plan would close 17 schools, reopening some for alternative city-wide programs, change grade levels, revamp the district integration plan, merge at least nine other schools into special schools and re-shuffle 11,000 students. The plan would force many Black, Latino and other poor students out of their neighborhood schools which would be permanently closed or reopened for other uses. Horace Mann is scheduled to become a "Creative Arts Center." Benjamin Franklin High School in the city's predominantly Black Western Addition area is similarly scheduled to be closed and reopened as an "Allied Medical Arts Center," drawing its enrollment from the entire city.

However, parents, students and teachers from the Mission and Western Addition, the scene of wholesale urban renewal destruction in the '60's and early '70's, have served notice that they will not be moved.

At the Saturday morning

public meeting at Horace Mann, angry students and parents refused to let Alioto leave by physically blocking his red Cadillac sedan in the school parking lot.

Speakers there pointed out that the plan was made public just one month before it will go to the school board for final approval and that a two hour meeting was all the time the community was given to voice its opinion.

Addressing the board's disregard for community concerns, one parent vowed, "You have had two years. [To design the plan.] We'll stay here all day if we have to!"

The Mission community is insisting Horace Mann remain a junior high school for that district. The school has been commended by the state for its programs to help "culturally deprived" students in their reading and math skills. As recently as two years ago the San Francisco School District invested over \$2 million to renovate classrooms and bring the school up to earthquake standards. Arleen Gallagher, speaking for the Horace Mann

staff, commented, "Horace Mann is a success story. Why are you [the board] looking for alternatives? Isn't success enough?"

The 31 page proposal, containing paragraph after paragraph about quality education, integration, less busing, more alternatives and parent participation, was referred to as a "snow job" and containing "faulty" and "inaccurate" information. One parent said, "You think you will get by, and we won't protest. How do we know you won't tear down this art school five years from now?"

Alioto and his planners may have a tough time "getting by" the residents of the Western Addition, who in the past few years have seen their children's reading and math scores in statewide testing rise substantially. Teachers have successfully implemented bilingual programs. And an apparent all-out community effort has been responsible for the present high statewide rating of the school.

The feelings of the community were made very clear as Mrs. Frazier, a great-grandmother and long-time neighborhood resident, stood up to say, "If it [the

Redesign Plan] doesn't include me, I'll do it myself. Do you think I'd waste my time for nothing? We're doing a damn good job! I'll tell you one thing, it's going to be a hell of a fight in the Western Addition if you close this school or if you take this school away from us."

As community after community demands respect and the opportunity to be heard, Alioto and the board are beginning to stop and think. There are at least two school board members who have been forced to reconsider their support of the plan due to this strong opposition by students and parents.

Alioto claims to be "sensitive" to community criticisms, but continues to defend the proposal saying that it would provide educational quality and "stability that should last throughout the decade." However, poor and minority communities in San Francisco are very wary of being short-changed once again and cannot help but wonder if they have really been heard when they say, "Don't deprive the children of what they love. Their roots are in this neighborhood. Understand our feelings and our needs." □

Chicago School Poverty Funds Threatened

(Chicago, Ill.) State Education Superintendent Joseph Cronin has threatened to cut off \$189 million of special funds to Chicago because the Chicago Board of Education has defied state regulations. State officials have charged that the state funds which are intended for "disadvantaged" students are not being used for their intended

purpose. Chicago school officials admit that the funds are spent as general revenue for all children, instead of for special education programs in schools that "disadvantaged" students attend.

School districts get an extra 25 per cent in state aid for each child from a poverty-level family. Of 512,000 students in the

Chicago school system, 225,000 are considered to be from poverty-level families.

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, a dispute over how the money is spent has been simmering for over two years. A law requiring that each school district submit a plan to the state detailing how the special education funds will be used was overlooked by both the state and Chicago school officials until uncovered by the *Chicago Reporter*, a watchdog newsletter on race relations.

Chicago has never submitted such a plan. Now Cronin says that if the Chicago School Board does not submit a plan on how \$189 million for special education funds is to be spent by February 10, he will stop payment of the money.

At a press conference held here in mid-January, three Black state legislators demanded that the Chicago Board of Education spend all the money it receives for "disadvantaged" students on those students.

Chicago school superintendent

Hannon has said that a strict allocation of the funds for children in poor areas would mean less money and fewer teachers for schools in other communities, driving class sizes up to unmanageable levels. Many community and parent organizations disagree. Current statistics, they say, show that those schools that are overcrowded are mostly in oppressed communities where the funds should be directed. Schools in the "advantaged" neighborhoods are better situated, according to the school board's own statistics. □

attempting to re-open his old claim under the social security program. Furthermore, he was advised that it was very important to get the claim filed promptly because a new black lung law, which may pass soon, will probably have a more lenient set of standards for those who file before it passes than for those who file afterward.

The 70-year-old Mr. Taylor had to travel by public transportation on the coldest day of the year, from his home on the southwest side to the northside SSA office in order to insure that his claim would be filed on time. He explained all this, but the claims representative at the social security office persistently refused to file the new claim, telling him it was "useless" to do so.

Black Lung

Denial Of Civil Rights Built Into SSA Procedures

(Chicago, Ill.) On January 3, 1978, Mr. Wayman Taylor, a veteran of 19 years in the coal mines of West Virginia and a victim of pneumoconiosis (black lung disease) went to the social security office at 26th and

Pulaski. He wanted to file a black lung claim under the Department of Labor program, which is handled through the social security office. He had been advised of his legal right to do this while he was still

A spokesperson for the Chicago Area Black Lung Association expressed grave concern at this repetition of the pattern of abuses that has been committed against disabled coal field migrants in Chicago ever since 1969 when the federal black lung program began.

No stranger to the abuse of black lung victims in Chicago, Mr. Taylor is one of a group of ex-miners seeking to re-open his old claim on the grounds that his civil rights were violated under the old program in Chicago. Several years after his claim was denied, it was found that two "B-readers," experts hired by SSA to re-read all black lung X rays, admitted that the X ray showed the classic picture of black lung disease. Not only was Mr. Taylor denied, he was never told that SSA's own experts admitted he had the disease; nor were he or his granddaughter who attempted to help him ever permitted to see his file which might have led them to discover this information.



Because of the job rating used by SSA, an interviewer who spends extra time working with a miner to file his claim would be less likely to get a promotion (and higher pay) than one who sees a lot of people but turns a lot of them away.

Meanwhile, sources have revealed to KEEP STRONG magazine that the very system that SSA uses to rate the job performance of its interviewers in local offices may be encouraging them to illegally deny people their civil right to file not only black lung claims, but other kinds of claims as well. In rating the job performance of interviewers, the Administration counts as significant the number of "interviews" conducted, whether or not a claim is filed. Therefore, an interviewer who spends extra time working with a miner to file his claim would be less likely to get a promotion (and higher pay) than the interviewer who spends hardly any time at all with a claimant

and discourages him from filing a claim.

The CABLA spokesperson concluded, "The whole pattern of denial of civil rights shows that if poor and working people fight to win a just statutory law, such as the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, the corporate interests will then use their influence to see to it that the administrative law regulations and procedures, formal and informal, for enforcing the law will be used to defeat what the people fought for. That's why we are demanding not only a new black lung bill, but a real voice for black lung victims in writing the regulations to enforce the law." □

the core issue. It is upon this issue that recent negotiations have snagged. Meanwhile it is unlikely that a contract without a right-to-strike clause will be ratified by the 180,000 member rank and file.

Other demands in the two month old strike include a six hour work day, additional holidays, vacation time and personal leaves, dental and eye care, a wage increase, restoration of health and medical benefits, the equalization of the pension fund and a more lenient absentee policy.

The restoration of health and medical benefits is closely tied in with the local right to strike, and together the two emerge as the necessary backbone of a rank and file-supported contract.

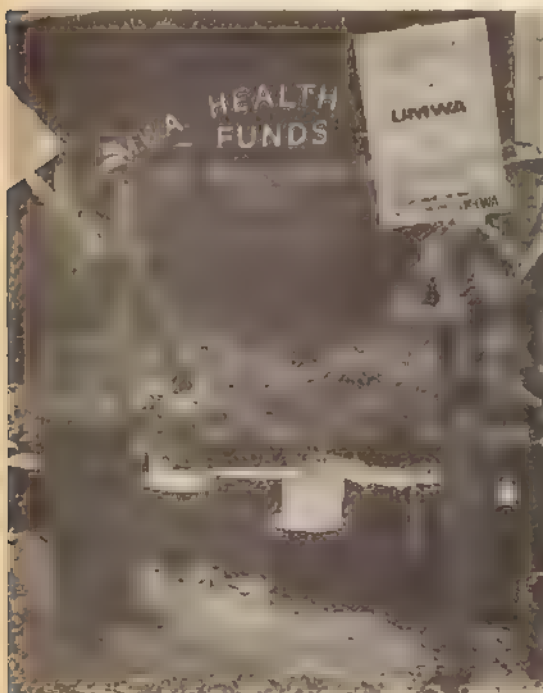
Rank'n File

Miners Hold Firm On Strike Demands

(Clintwood, Va.) As the coal miners' strike moves into its second month, the local right of miners to strike has emerged as

When you work in the most dangerous occupation in the country, a good medical plan is important. Until July 1, the UMWA membership had one of the best systems of health coverage of any major union. But in mid-summer, the three trustees who oversee the health care retirement funds announced a cutback, leaving miners and their families responsible for partial payment of medical costs. Ten weeks of wildcat strikes proved that miners were not willing to accept the cutbacks without a fight. Full restoration of health coverage is a key demand for them in the contract negotiations.

According to Tom Bethell, former UMW staff worker, some miners have bought the story that there is flagrant abuse of the medical card. Bethell, however, challenges the widespread accounts of abuse by miners, calling them "hogwash." If there is abuse, he says, it comes more from doctors in the coalfields who routinely hospitalize, over-



The core issues which have emerged in the miners' strike are the local right of miners to strike, and the restoration of health and medical benefits.

prescribe drugs, and over-operate. "It's the usual old Appalachian game," snaps Bethell. "If the hospitals are at fault, but you can't seem to do anything about it, then you take it out on the miners."

Another blow to miners is the entire suspension of health and retirement payments for the length of the strike, except that the few retirees paid out of the 1974 pension fund. That coupled with the fact that there are no strike funds being distributed by UMW has most miners strapped financially. Hardest hit are pensioners, living on a fixed income, who have no prospect of work even when the strike is over.

Appalachian Regional Hospitals, which normally derive 25% of their revenue through miners' medical cards, are also in a bind and have already laid off workers. If miners and their families abstain from health care during the strike, ARH could lose up to \$850,000 a month.

Working miners, angry over the suspension, shut down trust fund offices in eastern Kentucky and southwestern Virginia during the first week of the strike in a symbolic protest. Miners' wives have also been picketing offices in West Virginia.

Many people who have followed the Fund's problems from the start say the untimely suspension of services could have been avoided. Back in June, they say, the union and the operators should have transferred surpluses in the 1974 pension fund to the three depleted funds. The 1974 fund alone boasts a \$300 million surplus; whereas, the funds combined need \$500 million a year to operate. This could have helped alleviate the problem, at least until a solution was worked out. Tom Bethell says, "The

trustees didn't want to make that change because they wanted to drive home the message that wildcat strikes are responsible for innocent retirees, widows, wives and children getting into trouble."

Actually, studies have shown the wildcats to be only one in a number of reasons for the funds' financial difficulties. Paul Jackson, an actuarial consultant who was involved in the 1974 contract negotiations, attributes the funds' condition to poor planning

on the part of the UMW and the BCOA. "I told them three years ago that I thought the calculations were off, and that they were trying to provide too rich a set of benefits for the level of income they had to work with," says Jackson.

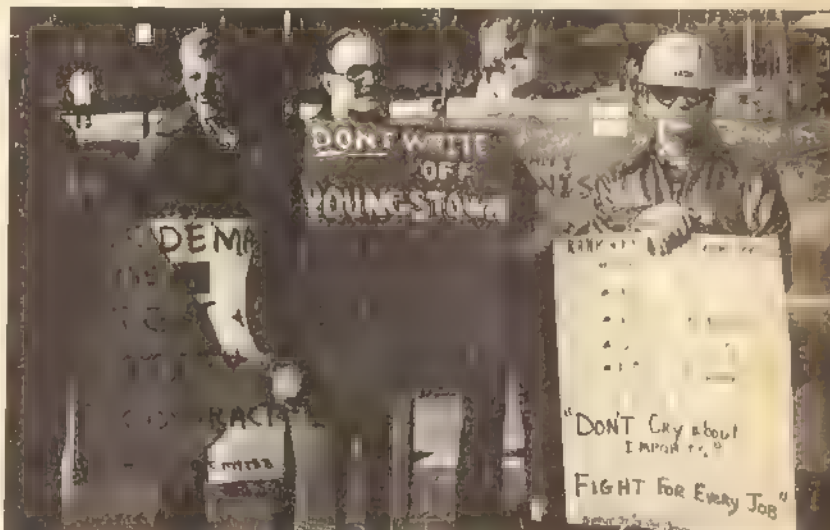
Whatever the reason, miners say they are not willing to pay the price. A contract settlement, without a guarantee that the funds will be restored in full and maintained, many feel will have a hard time being ratified. □

Steelworkers Demand More Jobs

(Youngstown, Ohio) A resolution recently passed by members of Steelworkers local 1010 at Inland Steel in East Chicago, Illinois and overwhelmingly passed by District 31, representing over 100,000 members, is expected to be presented by Local 1462 to the Basic Steel Conference. Local 1462 covers the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company that is closing down its operation, leaving up to 5,000 steelworkers unemployed by

June 1978.

The shut-down of Youngstown Sheet and Tube is expected to have devastating effects on the economic stability of the entire Youngstown area. For this reason, the company has been criticized widely for its actions. However, arguments have flared over the cause of the shut-down with many industry sources claiming that the rise of steel imports made this move nec-



Steelworkers maintain that the effort to put a quota on foreign imports is part of a campaign by manufacturers and the Steelworkers' Union to create a monopoly on the price of steel.

essary. Although the industry position has been supported by the Steelworkers Union bureaucracy, many steel workers disagree; a quota on imports, they say, will mean less jobs. The following resolution is their answer to the "Political Campaign by Big Steel and the Steelworkers Union" to create a monopoly on steel by eliminating competition.

WHEREAS: American Steel companies are mounting a major political campaign to reassure the Federal Government to impose import restrictions on foreign steel, and

WHEREAS: The real purpose of the companies is not to protect the jobs of American steelworkers as they claim, but to eliminate foreign competition so they can sell steel on the American market at artificially inflated fixed monopoly prices, and

WHEREAS: This would increase the costs of products made from steel thereby reducing people's ability to buy these goods, and resulting in lower production and the accompanying loss of jobs not only in steel but throughout the economy, even while the companies maintained high profits, and

WHEREAS: Import restrictions on foreign steel would encourage foreign governments to put import restrictions on American goods, contributing to the development of trade and tariff wars such as those of the 1920's which resulted in the Great Depression, we therefore maintain that a rollback on American steel prices is the only economically sound and effective measure to increase the sales of American Steel, thereby creating more new jobs, and

WHEREAS: Edgar B. Spear,

Chairman of U.S. Steel, stated that unless foreign steel imports are restricted, the companies will allow domestic steel production capacity to decline and threatens major shortages between 1980 and 1985, and

WHEREAS: This kind of blackmail, along with the threats of layoffs and plant closing, should not be tolerated by steelworkers, by the American public or by the Federal government, and

WHEREAS: Our International Union has mistakenly endorsed the blackmail campaign of the giant steel companies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the District 31 Conference call upon the International Union to withdraw its support from the import restrictions campaign, and instead our Union should call

upon the Federal Government to order the steel companies to roll back their prices to a level allowing them to compete more effectively and thereby expanding sales, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That we call upon the Federal Government to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent the steel companies from restricting capacity and causing shortages, and we assert that a few giant corporations have no right to blackmail the entire American economy and people, and

BE IT RESOLVED: That we call upon the Federal Government to launch a program to rebuild our decaying cities so as to provide jobs, increase the need for steel and to improve the deteriorating quality of life in America today. □

Community Programs

Near North Community Organizes To Defend Itself

(Chicago, Ill.) Calling for an end to the destruction of their neighborhood by private developers and government agencies, over 100 residents of the North Avenue South Community attended the Community Town Hall Meeting here January 21.

Following a welcome by the Rev. William Ivy, Wilma Margerum, coordinator of the Tranquility Housing Coalition and

President of the Town and Gardens Tenants Council, brought the meeting's participants on a "trip" through their urban renewal-scarred community. Noting first that North Avenue has come to serve as a racial dividing line between this community's predominantly Black and poor residents and the more affluent and White neighborhood of Lincoln Park to the north, Ms. Margerum pointed



Marion Stamps (left) and Wilma Margerum: "The developers claim their housing is for low and moderate-income people... They have to say this... but we are being priced out."

out an additional difference between the two communities bordering this de facto borderline. On the north, residents set up their own organization, the Lincoln Park Conservation Committee, which they have used to negotiate with city hall and to make decisions about the development of the northern area. "This is what we have to do south of North Avenue to determine our own future," said Ms. Margerum.

Proceeding through the series of housing developments that spot the area surrounding North Ave., the next lesson became equally loud and clear. "As we can see from the past with the Neighborhood Commons Corp., the Atrium Village and the Evergreen-Sedgwick projects, even though the developers profess their housing to be for low and moderate-income people before it is built, this is just lip service. They have to say this because they are building on urban renewal land, and they are getting federal subsidies, but we are being priced out."

Pointing to the successful effort made by the community "to plan our own future through the Mohawk-Cleveland struggle where we were able to get the area designated a mini-zone for rehabilitation, we know we have to band together to improve and upgrade our community," Marion Stamps, program coordinator of the Tranquility Memorial Community Center, presented the background and present implications of the struggle to defend the community and keep it for the people who still live there. "In 1965 the plan to seize our community was escalated to the point where building after building was torn down, and no housing was put up. Then after a ten year lapse came Chester on the Vine, Atrium Village and Evergreen-Sedgwick. Even though the community raised the struggle to build low-income housing, low-income people can not move in. They won't even give us an application if we are on welfare or poor and Black," she said.

As described by Ms. Mar-

gerum, the Town Hall Meeting hoped to accomplish four goals: to let people know of the threat the community faces of being destroyed and its people displaced due to its vulnerability because it's so close to the lake and the Loop; to announce the results of a series of three community surveys that had been conducted in the last month; to solicit more input into a neighborhood comprehensive plan and; to develop a plan of action.

The main concerns that came out of the community survey that more than 500 residents responded to were more recreational facilities for the youth, more low-rise, low-income housing in the community and the establishment of a community security patrol. Over 53% of the people surveyed said they planned to stay in the community but were concerned with the run-down, dilapidated conditions that the city and landlords have allowed to occur.

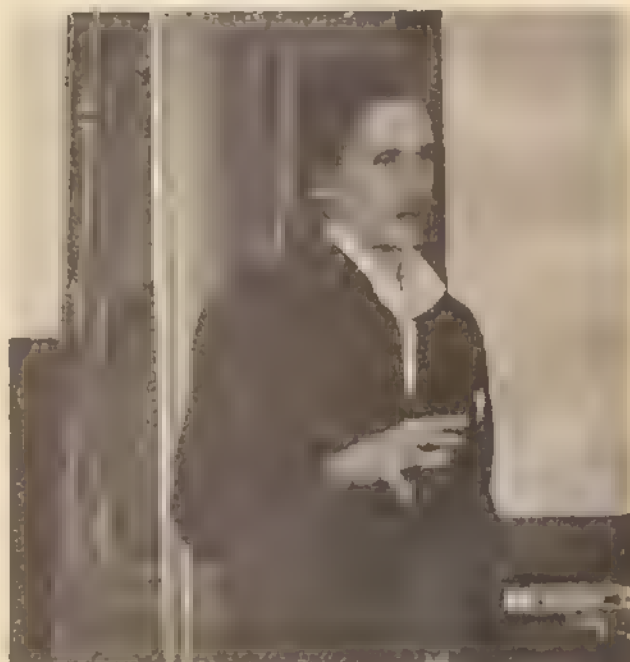
Following a delicious home cooked fried chicken dinner, the meeting got back to business with a presentation by Ed Marksman, administrative coordinator of the Tranquility Memorial Community Center, on the role of the Community Development Corporation in the struggle to save the neighborhood for those families who live there now. A resolution which calls for the North Avenue South Community Development Corporation to defend the community against private developers and government agencies, and for no more demolition was passed unanimously.

As the intense Town Hall Meeting broke up, neighbors gathered in small groups as they discussed with enthusiasm their plans to take a part in the defense of their community. □

MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR BLOCK CLUB COALITION

After a month of solid door-to-door organizing, the Heart of Uptown Block Club Coalition held its first general meeting on Sunday, January 15 at the Fred Hampton Memorial Hall, 1222 W. Wilson. The Heart of Uptown Block Club Coalition, which had held its organizing meeting a month earlier on December 4, was begun in order that the people of Uptown could be legitimately represented and have a real voice in how Uptown will be developed. A petition used in the extensive door-to-door effort calls on the federal government to use federal funds to save the present community for those who live here now by preserving the existing low-income housing and improving the living conditions.

The goal of the Heart of Uptown Block Club Coalition in its first month was to get 51% of the people who live in the area to sign the petition and thereby show concrete support for the Coalition. Jack Hart, emcee for the meeting, opened the meeting by saying, "We have accomplished the first step. We have succeeded in demonstrating that the majority of people in the Heart of Uptown are interested in staying here and want to be represented



Jack Hart, emcee for the meeting, explained, "The majority of people in the Heart of Uptown are interested in staying here and want to be represented by their own organization."

by their own organization.

"Now that we have the massive support of the people of our community, we must organize and get the people to actively



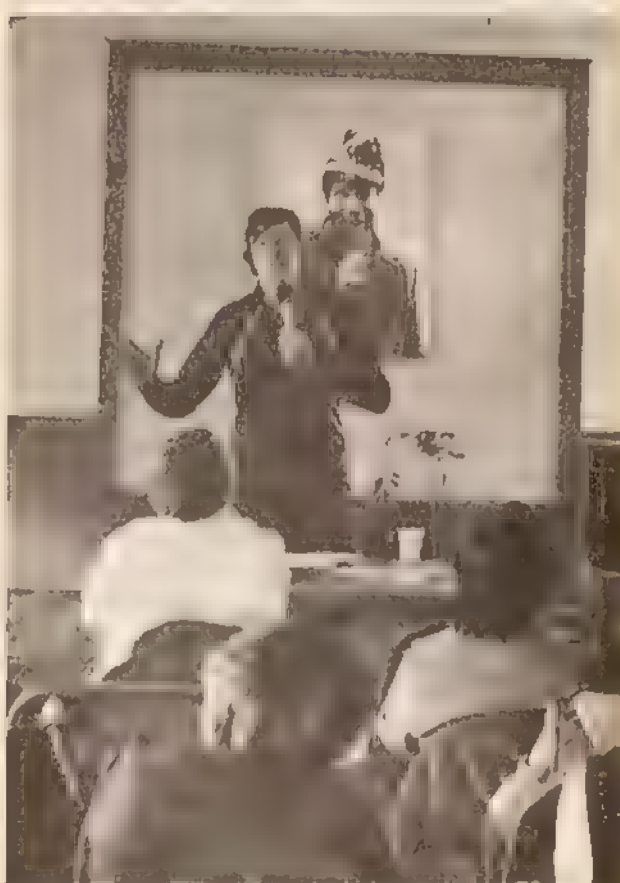
Truman College (left) began a series of expansion plans that call for the destruction of homes in Uptown. The recent demolition of the apartments on Racine and Wilson (right) displaced hundreds of tenants.

work to improve our living conditions and force the federal government to use our money for our benefit. We have no one else to rely on but ourselves. It will take all of our ideas and skills to be able to overcome the city's plan to destroy us and move us out of our homes. But I am convinced and many other people are convinced that we can do it — we can save our communities, we can win."

Recent expansion plans and moves by Truman College and some private developers in the area, coupled with the sudden increase in rents, have destroyed or priced out much of the low-income large family housing in a community which was already hard pressed with a severe shortage of large family housing. The city's overall masterplan calls for Uptown to be slowly transformed from a low income multi-

racial area to a primarily White middle-income neighborhood. Recent developments or plans such as Truman College and the suburban-style shopping centers like the ones William Thompson intends to build have been used to attract developers who would be willing to rehab at a profit or simply develop new projects which will attract middle class people. Federal funds which have been received by the city because of the deprived conditions of communities like Uptown are primarily used to further their own plans to accelerate the destruction of these communities. The Heart of Uptown Block Club Coalition has vowed to reverse this process.

The Heart of Uptown Block Club Coalition is a coalition of block clubs from the 4100-4300 blocks of Kenmore Street,



Chairpersons of the Coalition's steering committee spoke of specific problems and solutions for the Heart of Uptown. Clockwise, starting upper left: Jack Ray, Mabel Galloway, Gene Ronacher and Speedy Hornbuckle.

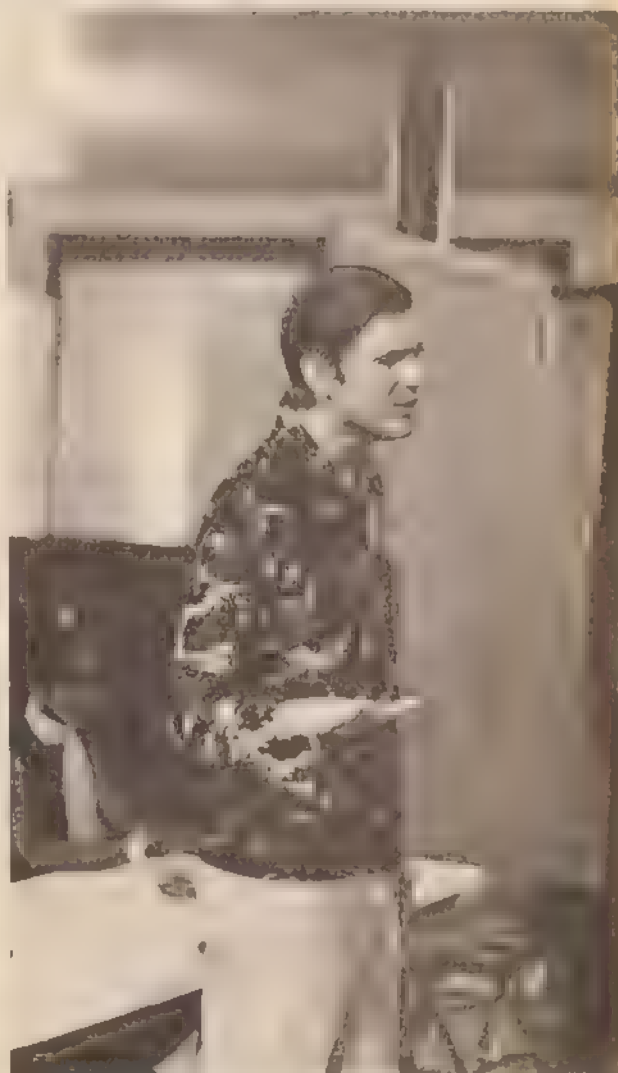
and the 4400-4700 blocks of Racine, Magnolia and Malden Streets. Block club chairpersons from each block, who together will make up the overall steering Committee of the Coalition were introduced at the meeting. They are Speedy Hornbuckle from Kenmore Street; Bobbie Northern, 4400 Racine; Gene Ronacher, 4400 Magnolia; Jack Ray, 4500 Magnolia; Mabel Galloway, 4400 Malden; and Michael Johnson, 4500 Malden.

The Block Club chairpersons each spoke of the specific problems and proposed solutions discussed in their Block Club meetings. They spoke of buildings which needed to be rehabbed, the need for teen centers and recreational facilities for the youth of the community, and of the special needs and problems of the older members of the community, the senior citizens. Jack Ray perhaps put it best when he said, "What we are really dealing with here is survival. We need to dig in, come together with those of us who want to live in this community, those of us who have been here for a while, and we need to cooperate with each other. Then we can do what we all know needs to be done." Speedy Hornbuckle summed it all up by saying, "We are going to save this community; we need to build teen centers so we can save the young people. We have to do it, because if we won't then who will?"

Speaking of the existing \$71 million in federal funds which the city will be receiving and which is supposed to be for rehab and community development, Slim Coleman, coordinator of the Intercommunal Survival Committee said, "We must pull a kind of 'end around.' We must go around the city which has traditionally used our money to pursue their own masterplan and prevented us from having any voice in how our money is used. We will have to go directly to the federal government and get what we need, get what the law entitles us to, get whatever we have to have in order to solve our own problems ourselves. We must be sure that the money does not continually go to these

'professional actors' with their band-aid reform programs which do nothing but further the city's plans for our destruction. We must develop our own organization, our own leaders and our own programs, and redevelop our own communities for ourselves."

A resolution which authorized the Steering Committee to negotiate the demands of the Block Clubs with the federal government was then passed unanimously by the 150 Block Club members who were present. The meeting ended with a renewed determination to organize for survival and the vision of a true people's development plan on everybody's mind. □



Slim Coleman, coordinator of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, spoke about the \$71 million in federal funding which the city of Chicago will receive for rehab and community development.

THE DIVISION OF STOCKTON

"City of Stockton, California. City council agenda, January 16, 1978. Item 11.3, report of the finance committee meeting held on January 11, 1978. B. Car Dealers Association. Action recommends approval of new car center concept and authorizes the appropriation of \$50,000 to the redevelopment agency as a loan for the purposes of hiring consultants for a feasibility study." Ayes: Madden, Nabors, Rue, Clayton, Paige, O'Brien, Ramos. Nays: White, Sousa.

Quickly and quietly, without fanfare and debate, Stockton City Council adds another chapter to the Stockton story — a tale of two cities. Like Berlin in the 1960's, a wall is being constructed in this city, dividing it almost in half. To the west and north is Stockton's future. To the east and south lies the past.

The division of the city has a 30 year history. It began slowly, as people of color populated the central, eastern and southern neighborhoods. But its pace quickened when jobs were eliminated by machinery, and light industries died or were sucked into larger corporations. The older neighborhoods grew economically depressed. With little cash to spread around, small

businesses became boarded storefronts, and gas stations closed up and down the streets.

But California has always been known for its building industry. And Stockton is no exception. The developers moved North along Pacific Avenue. Thousands of town houses and duplexes were thrown up. Then came the shopping centers and department stores — Macy's, Sears, Weinstock's — and the branch banks. While the city prospered to the north, it was dying in the south and east. And somewhere along the line, the city officials looked around and said, "let it die." And the first piece of the wall went up.

With good money and good wishes from the federal government, the "West End Project" went up. The city's oldest community was declared "blighted", its residents called "thugs" and the "criminal element." The concept behind the West End Project was like the old baseball jeer — throw the bums out. The only problem with all of this was that the bums were really temporary and part-time workers in the fields and canneries who only made enough money, though they worked long and hard, to afford the cheap hotels and



Quickly and quietly, without fanfare and debate, Stockton City Council adds another chapter to the Stockton story — a tale of two cities.

rooming houses in the west end.

Twelve hundred people were moved out in quick order, making downtown safe for the Holiday Inn, the Sambos and a dozen or so bank buildings. Stockton's Berlin Wall is not made of brick, mortar and barbed wire. It is a red line, drawn by the money men and followed religiously by the city government. As street sewers, sidewalks and other city facilities have increased and improved to the north, these same services are increasingly withdrawn from the rest of the city.

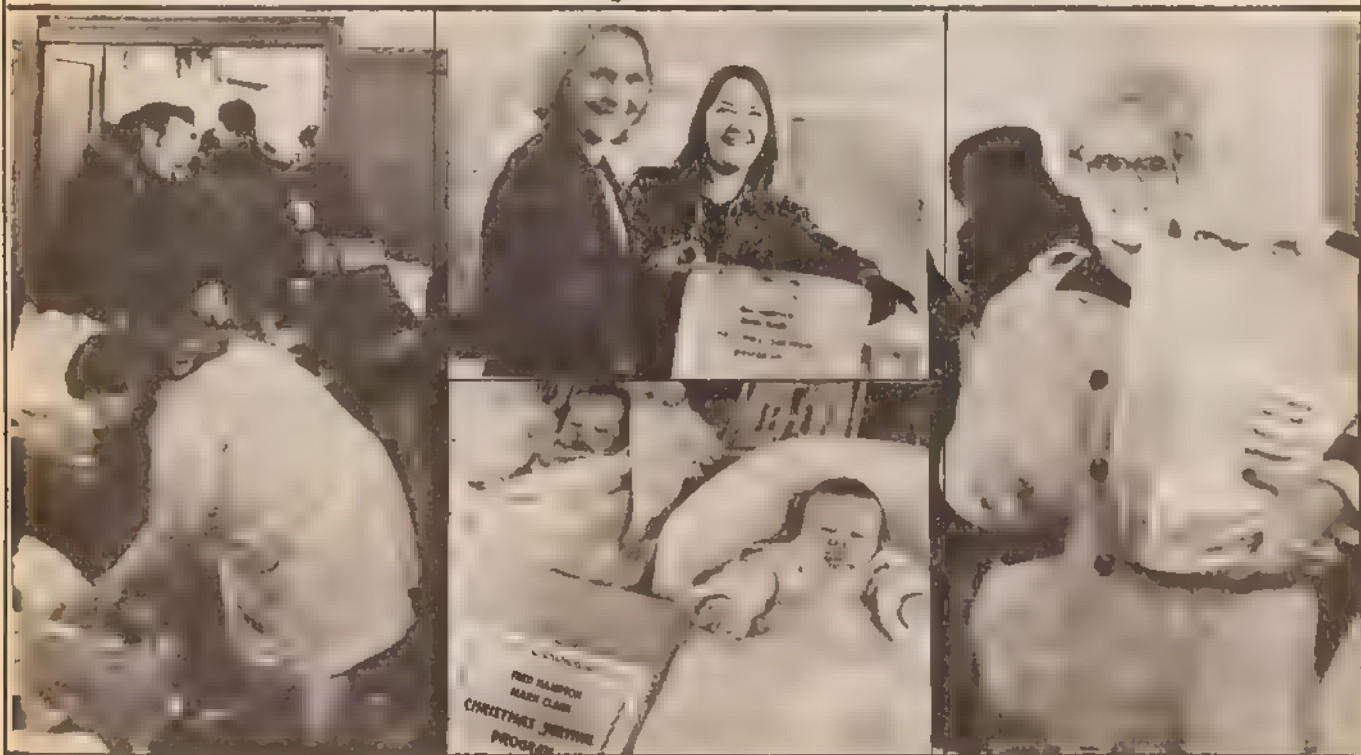
In fact, many people believe that the city's eastern boundary lines have been carefully drawn to exclude large numbers of poor White and Latino families. And the city planners have proposed measures which would artificially inflate land prices near downtown and, "eventually translate into increasing the cost of housing."

The new car dealers' auto loan proposal adds a strong dimension to the city's plan to cut itself in two. The plan would have the city buy and clear fifteen blocks (45 acres) in an area immediately east of downtown. As the land is cleared and improved it would be sold to the various new car dealers for their showrooms and

garages. So, like grateful hold-up victims, seven city councilmen voted on January 16 to donate a piece of the city to General Motors, Ford and Chrysler Corporation. Families living in the proposed redevelopment area are angry with the city's plan to bulldoze their neighborhood. They are even angrier that the city council took no time to consult with them. "You mean my councilman sat there and didn't say anything against this?" asked a resident after hearing about the council's quick decision.

But word is spreading fast, and some residents have demanded that a public hearing be held in the community before any further steps are taken. Dallas Waters of North Aurora Street in the redevelopment area offered the council a word to the wise at the Monday night meeting. "Where am I going to find a place like mine for \$160 a month? I'm a young person. What's going to happen to all the older people who live in the neighborhood? What about these people who own their own house? You give them \$25,000. They're not going to buy another house for \$25,000. You're going to put a lot of people out of their homes. I want to tell you that 90% of the people in the area are against this." □

9th Annual Christmas Survival Program In Chicago...



1st Annual In Brooklyn



RENEWED MOTION FOR F.B.I. CONSPIRACY FILES AT HUEY P. NEWTON HEARING

In the first scheduled court date in 1978 for Black Panther Party President Huey P. Newton, chief defense counsel Sheldon Otis filed a renewed discovery motion seeking previously denied FBI and other government conspiracy documents bearing on the frame-up case against the BPP leader, adding that he intends to ask for a dismissal on the assault charges since the alleged victim has testified he cannot remember who beat him.

In last Monday morning's brief but well-attended pretrial hearing, Otis filed four defense motions, telling Alameda County Superior Court Judge Allen Broussard he will file a fifth, the dismissal motion, within the week. The Black judge set January 23 for arguments on the motions, which are opposed by deputy district attorney Tom Orloff.

The 45-page discovery motion, similar in many respects to those submitted in Oakland-Piedmont Municipal Court prior to Huey's preliminary hearing in October,

seeks documents "which are in the possession of the district attorney or his agents, or which by diligent good faith efforts are obtainable by the district attorney" from 18 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

The documents, the defense contends, will provide concrete proof — the "smoking gun," Otis has called it — that the current criminal charges against Huey are part and parcel of the 11-year conspiracy to "destroy and discredit" Huey in particular and the Black Panther Party in general.

Included among the 30 specific items for which discovery is sought are:

- "All persons to whom any promises of immunity, leniency or bargains were made in exchange for information in this case;

- "All medical reports or other records concerning the diagnosis, care, treatment, and prognosis of Kathleen Smith" (the 17-year-old prostitute whom Huey is falsely



BPP President Huey P. Newton with his wife Gwen and attorney Sheldon Otis on steps of Alameda County Courthouse following court hearing on January 9. Otis filed a discovery motion seeking FBI and government conspiracy documents.

accused of shooting).

On this item discovery is sought "on the issue of whether her death was legally caused by the shooting of August 6, 1974. She remained hospitalized from then until October 31, 1974, when, in a comatose condition, she was removed to a convalescent hospital. She died later the same day. The fact that she died on the same day she was taken to the convalescent hospital gives rise to the likelihood that an independent, supervening act, namely her premature or untimely removal from the hospital, legally caused her death;

•"The felony and misdemeanor arrest, detention and conviction record of any persons who may be called as witnesses in this case" (referring to certain prosecution witnesses, described as "seedy-types" by Otis, used in the frame-up);

•"An inventory of all tangible evidence, together with copies of any documents, seized by law enforcement officers or their agents in connection with this case;

•"The identity, address and aliases of any informer who communicated or attempted to communicate with any law

enforcement agency on the events upon which the alleged offenses are based;

•"Records of any occasions from 1967 to the present, in which Mr. Newton's photograph was exhibited by law enforcement officials to any person for the alleged purpose of identifying the perpetrator of a criminal offense;

•"The contents of and any records concerning the interception or surveillance, by electronic means or otherwise, or any wire or oral communications," of Huey P. Newton, other BPP members and attorneys and BPP offices or headquarters.

Other items seek information concerning illegal federal mail tamperings, covert breaking and entering and the use of infiltration.

Other motions filed by Otis at the hearing: (1) seek a severance of the two cases; (2) seek to strike the allegation of a prior conviction; and (3) seek to suppress illegally obtained evidence.

Judge Broussard postponed setting a trial date in the case pending a decision on these and other motions. □

THE COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
FOR
HUEY P. NEWTON
AND THE
BLACK PANTHER PARTY



Huey P. Newton, the Founder of the Black Panther Party, has returned voluntarily from exile to confront in open court the false charges and the murderous secret police attacks that forced him to leave the United States in 1974.

I want to help get Justice for Huey! Enclosed is my contribution toward Huey's bail and defense: ☐\$500 ☐\$250 ☐\$100 ☐\$50 ☐other \$_____ (state amount)

(Friends who contribute \$500 or more will receive a 14K gold "JUSTICE" pin.)

☐ I can also volunteer to help.

Make all tax-deductible donations and checks payable to: The Capp Street Foundation, Suite 217, Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, California 94705.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

THE IRISH IN NEW YORK

In Part II of a series of interviews with people reflecting on their cultural background and history, Grace Meehan talks about life during the Depression of the '30's and how it affected the Irish in New York. Grace is a fourth generation Irish-American who has lived in the Brooklyn community of Greenpoint most of her life.

Q: What were living conditions like in the community?

GM: In the community, everything was home oriented. The main part of the social life, other than the holidays, was Sunday dinners at home. The family would gather together. It was nice in those days, too, because you didn't have a need for horrible old folks' homes. Everybody had a grandmother living in the home, or a great-grandmother.

I feel that people who don't have money — if they're not from the upper middle-income or the very wealthy — need help in supporting elderly parents who don't have money of their own. I feel that they should be given financial aid, so the family can have the benefit of the knowledge of life of the older folks. The children can learn from two generations. That's one reason why you have all the trouble with the youth today. Grandma and Grandpa are shuffled out of the scene, and there's no home — there's a breakdown in the home life. They'll spend plenty of money to rehabilitate a child who's been in and out of jail a million times

by the time he or she reaches 16, but they won't spend money to keep the family together. In other words, they always lock the barn door after the horse escapes.



Grace Meehan: "I feel that while respect should be given, it shouldn't be given to people, places, things and situations that don't deserve it."

Back then, everything was in the family. You visited, you had parties, everyone had a player piano. If the couple giving the party didn't have enough money, everyone would bring a plate... picnics, boat rides. There again, promoters who were unethical would overload the boats, and there would be many lives lost. This was around the 1920's.

In the Depression, life in the Irish-American communities centered around the radio—because people didn't have money to go on excursions or take the boat up to Bear Mountain or around New



"I can remember another time when my parents were told to go way downtown to the Lower East Side to get what they laughingly called 'surplus food.'"

York, to the Statue of Liberty, or things like that, so everything was centered around the radio. I think crossword puzzles became the thing then, just like scrabble did a little later.

You shared. If you have potatoes, and I have gas, you cooked them on my gas, and we shared them. I can remember at one time, my parents were not only raising me but they were raising two cousins of mine. They went without food many times (my parents). I can remember having a mustard sandwich — that's why I think I don't particularly care for mustard today.

I can remember another time when my parents were told to go way downtown New York, the Lower East Side, to get what they laughingly called "surplus food." You had to go there whichever way you could. They didn't have money to go there on the subway. So they walked — and I walked with them. The surplus food was one item — tomatoes. And the man in charge was infuriated with my father —

"You didn't bring a bag?" So my father said, "I don't have any."

They had no facility for wrapping up these tomatoes. Naturally, if you don't have money to go to the grocery store, you're not going to have a bag; if you don't have money to buy a newspaper, you're not going to have newspapers.

My father went to a candy store and pleaded with the man for an old newspaper. The man gave him a hard time, but finally gave him a few sheets of newspaper, and there was this tremendous journey back from the Lower East Side to Horatio Street with these few pieces of newspaper. The tomatoes were falling out, and then when we got home, we didn't have any bread — forget about the mayonnaise and the lettuce. There was a neighbor who had bread — so we gave her tomatoes, and she gave us bread.

This is all true, but this is what our society wants to forget about. They want

to become ostriches. "We have never done this; our people have never lived this way." They're still living this way. Cat food which cost 17 cents a can two years ago costs 36 cents a can now because senior citizens are eating cat food. Senior citizens



"In a lot of homes where the husband couldn't find work, they would go over on freight trains to get to another state... they thought there would be work there."

are treated miserably. I have documented information on that because I've gone through it.

In the 1930's, in Black neighborhoods, families ate dog food. So it hasn't changed that much, has it?

But getting back to the '30's, the social life was around the family radio. If you had your own house and you couldn't afford heat, or if you were living in an apartment where you had to provide your own heat, and you didn't have it, everyone more or less sat around the gas oven — if you were lucky enough to have a gas oven. Everyone wore coats indoors in the '30's.

Movies were a great escape in the '30's, if you had enough money to go to the movies. I wondered why whenever there's an old movie on T.V. about the '30's, it's always about the idle rich — why this was

always the plot. The reasons for this was to keep the citizens, the masses, the underprivileged (whatever term you want to use), it was to keep them happy. It was a panacea. You're hungry, you're cold... look how dopey those people are; how idiotic. I mean, aren't you glad you're intelligent? You're hungry, but you're smart. And that's why they made those movies so frivolous.

I'm all for respect; I believe in respect. I believe in respect for God, humans, country, animals, plants, everything, but anything can be carried too far.

I feel that while respect should be given, it shouldn't be given to people, places, things, situations, that don't deserve it. Now, the people were so inclined to accept, that they didn't think for themselves. Not that they weren't capable, but had they thought for themselves, they would have thought, "If I'm so lucky and so smart, why am I starving? Why not live like the silly idle rich with their champagne and caviar?"

My father told me that the country was in such a state of chaos (a lot of people jumped out the windows and committed suicide in 1929) in the Depression, there was such a state of chaos, that if it hadn't been for Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the country would have collapsed. There was a march on Washington, right around that time, in the early '30's by the World War I veterans, who were supposed to be given pensions or something in 1918 or 1919, and they had never gotten them. Their families were hungry, so they marched on the White House. They camped out, and when they wouldn't leave, they turned guns on them. I don't believe they ever got the money either. I was shocked that I didn't find this out until I was an adult, that I was never taught about it in school.

In a lot of homes where the husband couldn't get work, they would go over on freight trains to get to another state where, if they were in the steel line, maybe they thought there would be work there.



"It was nice in those days, too, because you didn't have a need for horrible old folks' homes. Everybody had a grandmother living in the home, or a great-grandmother."

Fathers were missing from the homes for a long time. The Red Cross and the Catholic Church provided food for these needy families.

They gave some sort of welfare. They were very arrogant and disrespectful of the people. They would walk in your home and would strip your bed of its linen. If you had a relative living with you, that was not included in your welfare money. They would tell you, "Get rid of that relative, or we will take the money away from you." One of the cousins that my mother had raised, he was a teenager, about 15. Now if there wasn't work for a man of 30, was there work for a 15-year-old boy? They told my mother that if she didn't get rid of him, they would take the money away from her. No matter how cold it was, this boy had to get out of the house at 9:00 in the

morning and not return until 6:00 at night because you never knew when they would show up. There were no appointments. My mother was getting home relief.

In the late 1930's, my father used to walk the Triborough Bridge to Manhattan every day to try to find any kind of menial work. This was a man who wore \$200 tailor-made suits before anyone else in the working class did. My mother's clothes were all tailor-made — all her jewelry and furs had been sold. His suits were sold too.

If he was lucky, he would get work in the donut parlor. His pay would be fifteen cents and a bag of donuts. He would walk the bridge back. He left the house at six or seven in the morning, and returned at ten or eleven at night. □

THE SHORTER WORK WEEK

The following article, written by Sherri Roberts and reprinted from the December 1977 issue of MOUNTAIN LIFE AND WORK, is the first article in an ongoing comment section on unemployment which will appear each month in KEEP STRONG. The articles in this column will not necessarily reflect the editorial opinions of KEEP STRONG. However, we think that unemployment is a serious problem and that different assessments of this problem should be aired and discussed.

How many hours of one's life should be sacrificed to help increase the size of someone else's pocketbook? Are 40 hours a week too few or too many?

Once again, people's murmurs for a shorter workweek are changing into stronger and clearer sounds. Though the issue has been brought up and forgotten over and over again through the years, there seems to be enough action brewing now to eventually carry this demand through, but it will not be an easy task. Certain politicians and committees of unions all over the United States are now strongly stressing the fact that a shorter workweek will spread labor among more people, thus create more jobs and ease the unemployment problem. This type of action would not, of course, meet with everyone's approval, for it is clear that the corporations might have to lose a little of their padding in the process. But a shorter workweek answers to many problems, and could prove to be the only real solution to

supplying jobs to the millions of unemployed workers in the U.S.

An Historical Perspective — Why 40 Hours?

Definition: A fair day's work — *All the work a worker can do without injury to his health, at a pace that can be sustained throughout a working lifetime.*

Criteria such as this, to determine how much potential work could be wrenched out of one human body, was used in this country at the turn of the century, when the first corporations and big businesses were forming their diets of human labor. At the foundation of any corporate business today are the shadows of thousands of people who worked 12 to 15 hours a day to help this company reach its heights. These are not the same people who later strutted away with millions in their pockets, but rather, they are the people who barely had enough to survive on.

Who determined how much money (in hours of production) the workers should give their employer, before he would concede to give them a few dollars in return? It seems that this little control switch was in the clever hands of the companies themselves — and that was where the problem lay.

For years, while America was busily producing the wealthiest men on earth — the oil tycoons, the railroad profiteers, the

At the foundation of any corporate business today are the shadows of thousands of people who worked 12 to 15 hours a day to help this company reach its heights.



steel kings — common folks were at their jobs anywhere from 10 to 16 hours a day. And outlandish quotas were set by management to dictate exactly how much work should be finished by the end of those hours. Laws would be passed, limiting the length of the workday and then be changed or forgotten. Trade unions, in their formative stages, fought for the shorter workweek as well as other basic rights; but it wasn't until 1938 that the government intervened with final officiality, and Franklin D. Roosevelt passed the Fair Labor Standards Act — setting the workweek at 40 hours.

Yet what is magic about the number "40"? Why not 30, or 43? Forty hours was not chosen because the totaled hourly wage for the week was in direct proportion to the cost of running a business — but instead, it was a pre-calculated length of time that a person would consent to work without feeling that they were being treated unfairly. And it was a length of time that would still keep those company profits soaring high.

Since the time that the "Retail Midgets" were on their way to becoming "Corporate Giants," every element of the cost of labor

and production has been studied by their management—even down to "motion-time study," a research system done nowadays by computers to determine exactly how fast the "human machine" can cut a wire or load a box onto a truck.

These calculations for the efficient flow of production balanced off by more human ones, such as how many coffee breaks a person should have each day in order to stay sane, are set to get the ultimate yield out of every eight hour day — to make sure all employees still do "a fair day's work" regardless of how much fat their labor is putting in Mr. Company's stomach.

Groups Form To Begin The Fight

Considering the size of corporate profits these days, the meaning of "a fair day's work" is being re-evaluated by most unions. Shortening the workweek, without a reduction in salary, would not mean sending businesses to the poorhouse — but it would mean creating new jobs for millions.

"Because of technology, profits have been going up — but workers have been going down. The trend will be either fewer

hours or fewer workers," says Neil Cotler, aide to Rep. John Conyers from Michigan. Rep. Conyers has drafted legislation, not yet introduced, for a 35 hour workweek. He has put into legal writing the concepts of scores of unions around the country. In order to have a successful battle, the shots have to come from both the people out in the field and the people connected with the government.

Many union groups have formed around the issue, such as "The All Union's Committee to shorten the workweek," which includes a wide range of members from the conservative Steelworkers to the more progressive United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers. The committee's president and president of UAW Local 22, Frank Runnels, says, "The issue is so important that we'll just have to forget things in the past that have been divisive." Another union president, Joseph Tonelli of the United Paperworkers, introduced a 32 hour workweek proposal to the AFL-CIO at a convention in Los Angeles on December 10. The fever is spreading wide.



Workers leaving plant after an eight hour day. "Spreading, or sharing work would create an additional eight million jobs under a national 35 hour workweek schedule."

How Short Is A Shorter Work Week?

Some people are asking for 35 hours, some for 32, they may not agree on how many they want, but they all agree they want it less than it is now. Frank Runnels says that the reason it has taken a movement like this so long to gain ground is that groups always quibbled too much over what the reduction should be. Since different unions have different needs, this is an important question to leave open until later. "What's important about our program is the fact that we're not advocating a 30 hour workweek, or a 35 hour workweek. We're advocating a shorter workweek," Runnels clarifies. "And we're saying to every union, 'Commit yourself to a shorter workweek! Whatever plan you want to use to achieve that is fine.'"

But it is a fact that any reduction in worktime will create more jobs. For example, if all of one company's employees work five hours less a week, then extra people would have to be hired to reach the production expectations of the usual 40-hour week. Spreading, or sharing work in this manner would create an additional eight million jobs under a national 35 hour workweek schedule, according to Neil Cotler.

"Where Have All The Jobs Gone?" They've Gone To Machines, Every One"

The age of machinery may be a glorious tribute to man's ingenious capacities to create, but it is a death ritual for man's usefulness in building and production processes. The number of tasks that human hands can do more efficiently than the workings of computers, motors, and conveyer belts, are growing fewer by the minute. The manufacturing of products today is done nearly two and a half times more quickly than was possible thirty years ago; yet the benefits of technology have made human labor less and less necessary. As the boom in production boosts the economy, more and more people



The number of tasks that human hands can do more efficiently than computers, motors and conveyer belts is growing fewer.

are being told that their skills are not needed to take a part in that production. More jobs must be created to balance the difference between how much merchandise is produced and how many people are needed to make it — or soon, no one will have the money to buy what the machines put out.

Along with most things in life, unemployment is not free. Every unemployed person costs the U.S. Treasury \$18,000 in welfare, food stamps, and lost tax revenue. The average worker's wage in manufacturing is \$11,000. "We want to show people that it's cheaper to create jobs and put people to work than it is to have ten million people unemployed," explains Frank Runnels. "Right now, the business man is picking up the tab, supporting these people through unemployment benefits, food stamps, and welfare. But this (shorter workweek) cuts the businessman's taxes down and makes his products cheaper."

The Profits Are Sky High

One catch in the shorter workweek is that the extra money to pay the workers for those few hours they chopped off their schedule has to come from somewhere. It sure isn't going to come from their meager bank accounts, so it will just have to come

from the corporation gold mines. This will not tickle the fancies of too many businessmen — still, the facts are as follows:

Ten years ago, the profits in manufacturer's production totaled \$38.8 billion or \$1.28 per person-hour worked. Today the profits total \$84.6 billion or \$2.87 for every hour a person works (22 cents-per-hour more than federal minimum wage). With a 35 hour workweek, corporations will still be getting a \$2.08 profit for every labor hour worked. In the legislation drafted by Representative Conyers, small businesses with only a marginal profit gross will be exempt from shortening their hours, so . . . There ain't nobody that's going to be a hurtin'.

Two-timing On The Overtime

Right now, with a standard wage of "time and a half" for overtime, it's far cheaper for companies to work a small amount of employees harder, than to hire new workers at regular wage. There are 22.5 million people working overtime today, which means that there are a lot of potential new jobs waiting in that figure alone. Representative Conyers has proposed in his legislation that working overtime should require receiving a double wage, therefore making it just as economical for employers to hire new workers as it is to overload the old ones. Many companies have "compulsory overtime" which most laborers object to and unions have been trying to abolish. Although some people like to work extra hours for additional money, Frank Runnels says, "I represent 10,000 people (at the auto factory in Detroit where he works,) and they're solid behind us. If anybody was going to have an uprising over this (less opportunity for overtime,) it would be right here in my plant."

Leisure And Past Time: From Going Fishing To Reading James Joyce

"While the idle rich were forced to the dining of monkeys for amusement, those



"Though the situation was more exaggerated at the turn of the century, it still stands that 'leisure time' is an exclusive club for the wealthy."

fortunate enough to have work among the working class had no difficulty in filling their time. Working from dawn to dark, they divided all their time between factory and bed." (from *Labor's Untold Story* - pg. 79.)

Though this situation in 1884 was somewhat more exaggerated than what most workers must cope with today, it still stands that "Leisure Time" is an exclusive club for the wealthy, which working folks rarely have the opportunity to join. The unions are advocating more employment, not more free time, but the little extra leisure to be gained stands as an important spinoff factor.

What are the implications of people having a little more time to do what they like with their lives? To discuss this question in length could fill pages; and simply mentioning it barely touches on the issue — but here are some obvious seeds for a fruit that could blossom:

1. More spare time means more time to relax. More relaxation means a peace-

ful mind. A peaceful mind means more tolerance for work. Tolerance for work means more efficient production.

2. Fewer working hours means more time to spend with family and friends — means fewer arguments, fewer divorces and more emotionally healthy children in the world.
3. Less time on the job means more time to spend on favorite recreations and further education. Education, odd though it may seem, is one of the most frequent outlets that people choose as a way to spend their spare time. Having the time to discover who the person is inside of the worker, through recreational and educational interests, could mean a little extra happiness and wisdom in the air; but maybe the companies would rather their workers were not the wiser...

The Humphrey-Hawkins Bill: Friend Or Foe?

The much publicized Humphrey-Hawk-

The workers at Zenith Radio Corporation will lose their jobs in the next few months as the firm moves to plants outside the U.S.



ins Bill, presented to the 94th Congress two years ago by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey and Augustus F. Hawkins, has been subjected to much criticism lately. The bill proposes to lower U.S. unemployment to 3% in a five-year span, but has innate weaknesses, such as the vague methods for achieving that goal. Frank Runnels commented, "I just wish the Bill had one-millionth of the guts that Humphrey (who is dying of terminal cancer) has. I support it, but it's like supporting nothing." Nonetheless, most labor organizations and congressmen, such as John Conyers, have come out in favor of this legislation for key reasons. This is the first time a legal document declares, "Citizens have a right to a job," and its passage will give priority to unemployment issues in Congress. It fills the gaps that the shorter workweek leaves open, since spreading out jobs by having people work fewer hours, is not a solution for the unemployed who lack vocational skills. The Humphrey-Hawkins Bill plans to create job opportunities through public unemployment programs, with an emphasis placed on the nation's largest unemployed sector—Black youth.

What It Takes To Win The Game

"People are going to scream 'inflation'!

But it is important to air the issue. It should be brought to the public attention, which it hasn't as of yet." Solving unemployment is no easy chore. Neil Cotler feels that to fight the battle, there are three important angles to approach from.

1. Spreading work among the people. (The shorter workweek).
2. Creating job positions through public employment, (The Humphrey-Hawkins Bill).
3. Helping communities that are losing factories. (This is the most complicated issue, since it involves laws that prohibit "run-away firms" — businesses which leave communities to relocate overseas or in a rural area for cheaper labor costs).

The problems are complex — all elements need to be addressed. But if the people united are successful in winning a shorter workweek, there will be an end to joblessness among the nation's unemployed victims and the beginnings of a more human and dignified lifestyle for all. □

THE NEW CARTER URBAN POLICY



President Carter, promising a "new life" for blighted inner cities, has failed to come up with any concrete programs to help urban neighborhoods.

President Carter carried the votes of millions of poor and working people in the cities across this country during his election, with promises of "new life" for the urban areas and new solutions to city problems. As awareness has grown around his failure to produce in many other areas he promised to deliver in, the central focus has come on his failure to develop programs to help the cities. Until November of 1977 he had come up with absolutely nothing but cuts in existing programs, leading to sharp criticism from established organizations like the Urban League and the NAACP, and a boiling anger at the grassroots.

Finally, in November of '77, his staff produced a document for discussion that is only now being made available to community leaders. Legislation following from this new policy statement will not be introduced until 1978, and programs will therefore not go into effect, probably, until 1979 or 1980. Perhaps Carter is hoping that he can carry the cities on the basis of freshly funded urban programs with new titles untested and unproven in the hard realities of the inner city. In any case, the November policy statement gives us the opportunity to see what he plans to offer.

Carter's Policy

The basic elements in the Carter policy can be summed up in the following points:

1. Increase jobs by extending CETA public service jobs and developing transportation from the city to suburban job locations;
2. Concentration of federal jobs in the cities;
3. Federal inducements for firms to locate in the city;
4. Treat the city as part of a metropolitan area to increase the tax base cities can draw on to provide services;
5. Provide more housing loans for rehabilitation;



As Carter and his administration make paper promises, our cities crumble. More and more poor and working people are forced to move because their homes are destroyed or their rents increased.

6. Develop more mixed-income housing and develop more "town in towns";
7. Fund community groups that work in cooperation with the city;
8. Strengthen the affirmative action laws and guidelines on federal funding.

Problems With Carter's Policy

The first thing to say about Carter's new policy is that none of it is new, and none of it has worked very well before. The conditions of the cities are getting worse and worse, but not because nobody can find a way to make them improve. They are getting worse because powerful people are making money from what is happening to the cities, and the Carter policy, as might be expected, does nothing to challenge these people.

The Carter policy says nothing about the planning process, the process by which housing, community development, eco-

nomie development, education development and social service is planned. Most cities are really now two cities. One is the city of those who own it, govern it and plan its future. The other is the city of those who have labored in it, been born in it, suffer in it, have no representation in governing it and no part in planning its future. The present administration has not even attempted to enforce the citizen participation and affirmative action guidelines in the planning process which are already on the books.

The city of the owners and the planners is seen as a place that will someday soon be lived in primarily by the middle-class and the white collar workers involved in business administration, finance, trade and advertising. Their planning calls for the elimination of neighborhoods which are predominantly Black, Latino or poor White. For instance, in Chicago, the Economic Development Commission developed an overall economic development plan that calls for "strengthening the

strong areas first" and for clearing out the weak areas.

In spite of Carter's policy statement, 90% of federal funding will go to the cities on the basis of their plans which are aimed at eliminating the poor and underemployed communities and in the preparation of which these communities had absolutely no say.

The extension of public service jobs is destined to be a total flop since Carter is calling for a tax cut and an increase in defense spending at the same time. There simply won't be enough money to make any impact, and what jobs are produced will continue to be used by cities like Chicago to maintain already employed city workers in the highly paid political machine.

The program to develop more transportation from the city to job locations in the suburbs has been used for years as an excuse to provide deluxe transportation for those who live in the suburbs and work in the office buildings of the inner city. The brutal facts are that there are no jobs even now in the suburban industrial locations, and the situation will become worse as more and more of these plants are closing up and moving to non-union areas or out of the country entirely.

Incentives to draw industry into the city have been tried before, and on the limited basis outlined in the Carter proposal, have been a total failure. The banks that control the cities have financed the move of industry out of the city and are not likely to finance it back in. That is the major problem. Secondly, plants are automating, cutting their work force in half, moving to areas where labor organization is weak and getting tax write-offs for leaving behind their abandoned plants. The Carter proposal does nothing to stop this rip-off.

With 99% of private money going into developing middle and upper-income housing in the cities, the Carter proposal suggests that federal money should be

used to build this type of middle class, town in town housing. An additional program to support the development of mixed-income housing really amounts to the same old developments with a quota of 20% low-income tenants who are forced to move out in five years as the neighborhoods develop a middle class standard of living.

The program to encourage metropolitan government is also right in line with the plans of the banks and power elites of the cities. Faced now with Black, Latino and poor White overwhelming majorities growing ever more conscious at election time, the elites have already been attempting to negotiate forms of metropolitan government. In the larger metropolitan areas, Black, Latino and poor majorities would become again controllable



The future plans for cities does not include poor people. The developers and politicians are one step behind as poor people leave their neighborhoods. Their plan calls for the cities to be made up of middle class White people, good schools for their children and quality housing.

political minorities, and it is unlikely that any of the increased tax base would be spent on the needs of people in the inner city.

Funding community groups on the basis of their cooperation with the city means that community projects will only be funded if they are consistent with the power elite's plan to eliminate poor people from the city, or if they are so small and complicated that either they won't work or they won't have any effect.

Affirmative action, under the Carter administration and the present Supreme Court, has already proved to be little more than blatant hypocrisy.

What will the Carter urban policy finally amount to? When it is finally funded in 1979 it will amount to the same old thing with a few new names. It will not challenge those who are destroying our lives in the city. It will aid them in their projects. At the best points, the Carter urban policy will create a series of underfunded programs with a large number of paid staff in communities across the cities of this country who, without the money to do anything constructive, will fight among themselves, create divisions in the community and give the appearance that there is community leadership participating in the Carter program.

A People's Policy For The Cities

An effective urban policy would give communities significant control over the planning process for their own communities. It would create a massive program to build public low-income housing that would be turned over to the tenants over a period of time. It would put federal funds along with private funds to develop neighborhood production centers, with cooperative community shares in the business backed up by the federal funding. It would provide that industry leaving a city without the permission of the city must pay a very heavy penalty. And finally it would cut defense spending and put massive amounts



An effective urban policy would give communities significant control over the plans for their neighborhoods.

of money into public service jobs in needed, developing service institutions.

It is possible to develop a working economy in the cities with full employment. Production would have to be decentralized to meet the specific needs of the diverse communities in the city, say for specialized and localized textbooks in the schools. And real, livable housing must replace the complicated, unreachable promises of loan programs that never work. It is possible, but it is not on Carter's agenda. We have two years to put it on our agenda and make it the agenda of the whole country. □

THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

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25¢



The Intercommunal Survival Committee, responsible for **KEEP STRONG**, has been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to White people, for over 7 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive Whites is testimony to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and Third World people, that to understand our own situation as Whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

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National Perspective

\$2.5 Million To Chicago FBI Spies

(Chicago, Ill.) About \$2.5 million was paid to several thousand persons who informed on Chicago area residents and organizations from 1966 to 1976, the FBI disclosed here last month.

This disclosure as well as others regarding the depth of FBI surveillance in the Chicago area was made in response to written questions that U.S. District Judge Alfred Kirkland ordered the FBI to answer in a case filed on behalf of several individuals and organizations who have charged the FBI with illegal government spying.

According to the statement, the FBI's Chicago field office used 5,145 "informants" and "confidential sources" between January, 1966 and November, 1976. During the same period the FBI "opened files" on about 27,000 individuals and organizations here. These figures do not

include the number of files opened or the number of persons who began providing information to the FBI before 1966, even if they continued to do so.

According to the statement, FBI agents broke into the offices of the Chicago Committee To Defend the Bill of Rights in 1966 and stole a list of contributors. This is the first time an FBI burglary has been documented in Chicago, according to the *Chicago Daily News*, although a Senate committee report released last year said the FBI had committed perhaps as many as 1,000 break-ins nationwide.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department in mid-January released its findings from a two-year probe that charged late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover with accepting illegal favors and widespread abuse of Bureau services in detailing a long-standing pattern of corruption and criminal conduct at the highest level of the FBI.

Despite these findings, however, the 40-page report concludes that no prosecutions will be sought because the statute of limitations has run out on most of the offenses, which allegedly took place more than five years ago.

Much of the material in the report had been previously disclosed in news accounts and in Congressional testimony. The Justice Department probe followed an in-house FBI investigation that was rejected by former

Attorney General Edward H. Levi two years ago.

Among those accused of improper conduct along with Hoover were two top Bureau lieutenants, Nicholas P. Callahan, who was forced to resign as No. 2 man in the Bureau in 1976 because of some of the allegations detailed officially for the first time last week, and John P. Mohr who retired in 1972.

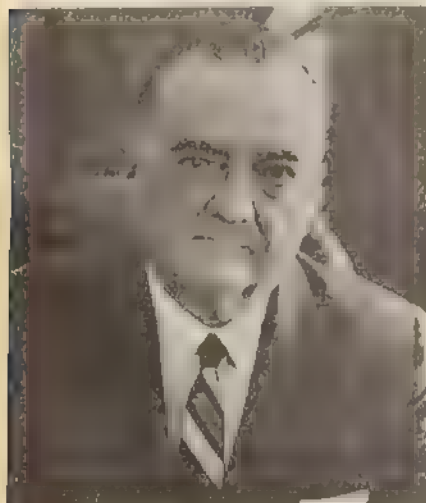
Hoover, who headed the FBI for nearly 50 years until his death in 1972, was charged with having accepted favors that ranged from additions to his home — including a front portico, a fishpond, shelves, telephone stands and an Oriental fruit bowl — to servicing of his lawnmower and snow blower.

"Plots of lawn were reset, metal polished, wallpaper retouched, firewood provided and furniture arranged," the report said. "Employees were on call night and day for this work."

Hoover also got free tax advice from a Bureau accountant, and members of the FBI's Exhibits Section were called upon to build gifts each year for Hoover on Christmas, his service anniversary with the agency and other special occasions, the report said.

"FBI employees called upon to perform these services did not think them proper but felt compelled to follow orders for fear of losing their jobs, or of arbitrary transfers or promotion delays," the report said.

While the report described extensive abuses, it refused to acknowledge any evidence of bribery as has been previously charged. For example, the report found that the FBI purchased \$500,000 worth of equipment on an exclusive basis from



The late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover has been tied to a long-standing pattern of corruption and criminal conduct at the highest level of the FBI.

the United States Recording Company from 1971 to 1975, paying a markup as high as 70 per cent for some equipment.

The report also found that several former FBI officials were poker-playing buddies with the company president, Joseph X. Tait, who was tried and acquitted last year on charges of tax evasion, fraud and conspiracy. Tait entertained FBI officials at various expensive Washington, D.C. area restaurants and country clubs. □

Portions of this article were reprinted from "The Black Panther"

Small Farmers' Strike Gains Momentum

(Dallas, Tex.) Forty striking farmers blockade a cold storage plant in Texas and are arrested. More than 1,000 Illinois farmers, in bone chilling weather, at the state capitol in Springfield, park their farm implements in the middle of city streets around the state house, halting traffic. At the American Agriculture Movement Headquarters in Springfield, Colorado, angry farm strike leaders call for the resignation of Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland who has said that the farmers' demand for 100 per cent parity is unacceptable.

The farm strike, called December 14, 1977, is on. While food prices have soared over 50% in the last five years, the profits of the food processors and food retailers have doubled, tripled and quadrupled in the same period. For farmers, however, it is a different story.

Since 1973 the price of an average tractor, new, has

climbed \$8,000. A new combine which cost \$22,000 in 1973 now costs \$42,000. The price of diesel fuel has risen over 100% in the same time period.

In comparison, a bushel of wheat sold for \$4.62 in 1973 today sells for \$2.50. Corn sold for \$2.15 per bushel now goes for \$2.09. The farmer could sell beef in 1973 for 52 cents per pound. Now in 1978, beef sells for 34 cents per pound. Meanwhile, processors and retailers (the "middlemen"), though they monopolize the market and force low prices on the farmer, refuse to pass these same low prices on to the consumer.

Hardest hit by this crunch are the small family farmers who are vanishing at an alarming rate. In 1945 there were approximately six million farms. Now, according to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, there are only 2.3 million. This means, on the average, over 2,000 farms per week go under. Texas is well

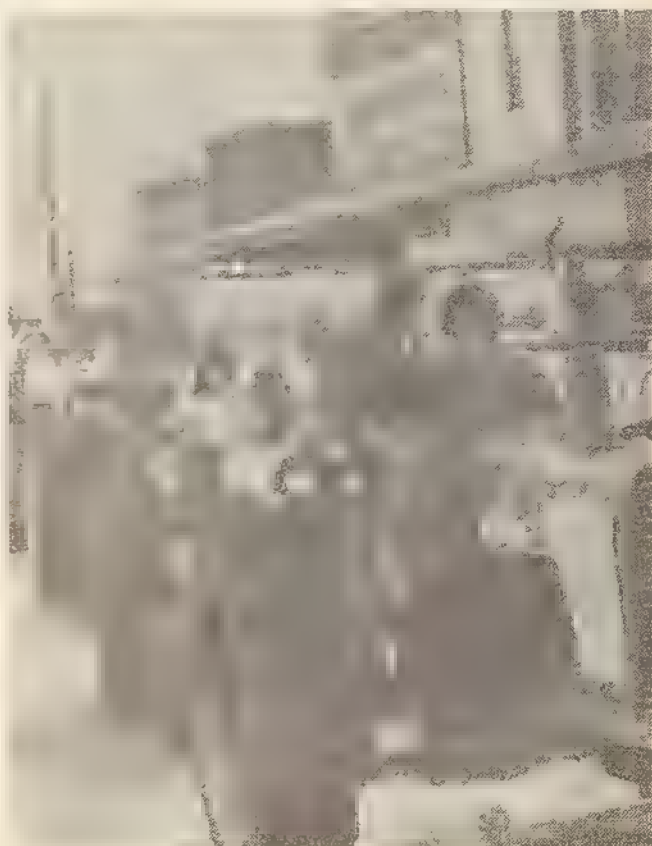
ahead of the national per state average, having lost over 3,000 farms in 1977.

As the small farms are forced out, the land is bought more and more by big corporations. As a result, since 1945, the average American farm has more than doubled in size. According to the latest agricultural census, 15 per cent of the farmland owners now own 70 per cent of all U.S. farmland.

Farmers are striking because they believe that unless something is done quickly, the family farm will vanish entirely.

Farm organizations and urban food consumer groups both point out that there are plenty of statistics showing that the small farm is more efficient than the large farm. The U.S.D.A. has found that the most efficient farm, measured in terms of "cost per unit of output" is the "mechanized one or two farmer unit," not the corporate farm.

In early December, farmers threatening to strike held a "Tractorcade" through the streets of Plains, Ga. It was estimated that more than 4,000 vehicles and 10,000 persons were involved.



The American Agricultural Marketing Association estimates that by 1985 the monopolies will be producing 75% of all food in the U.S. The U.S.D.A. predicted back in 1975 that if the U.S. farmer were left to the whims of the market, there would be less than one million family farms by 1985.

Although small-farmer associations such as the Texas Farmers' Union offer many suggestions to halt this trend, across the country striking farmers are demanding 100% parity.

Striking farmers are demanding a decent return on their investment. Specifically, 100% parity means that a unit of production, for instance a bushel of wheat, should buy now, relatively, what it bought between 1910-1914, which was a period of farm prosperity. In other words, if you could sell a bushel of wheat in 1914 for the price of a shirt, then you should be able to do so today. However, unless you buy your shirts at Goodwill, you can't. Farmers are now receiving only about 64% of parity prices. The last time the percentage hit this figure was in March, 1933. □

Portions of this article from the "People's Voice."

Exposed GIs In Danger Of Leukemia

(Yucca Flats, Nev.) Shortly before dawn on August 31, 1957, 3,000 "volunteer" troops of the 82nd Airborne and 4th Infantry Divisions were roused from their tents in the desert of Yucca Flats, Nevada. Army "deuce-and-a-halves" trucked them to



"There's nothing to be concerned about: we're just going to watch an atomic blast," the Army told Pfc. Donald Coe (above with baby) in 1957 prior to "Operation Smokey." Now he has leukemia.

within one and a half miles of *ground zero* — a 700-foot tower, atop which an atomic bomb would be detonated.

As the count-down began, the GIs were ordered from their trenches, told to turn their backs or, in some cases, lie on the ground, and to cup their hands around their eyes. One battalion was instructed that they would actually see the bones in their fingers through their closed eyelids. This was "normal," they were assured; there was "no cause for alarm."

Then, a 44-kiloton bomb, twice the size of those used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, temporarily eclipsed the rising sun.

When the dust, radioactive and otherwise, settled, the troops performed maneuvers in the contaminated area for two and a half hours.

The men wore ordinary uni-

forms, with film badges to register radiation exposure. Following the exercises, no ill effects attributable to the blast were reported, according to a recent Pentagon statement.

Now, 20 years later, evidence is accumulating that links exposure to radiation at the Yucca Flats test, code-named "Operation Smokey," with a statistically significant incidence of leukemia among the GIs present. Some evidence suggests that genetic birth defects may also be higher than normal among their children.

The successful disability claim of a dying veteran, Paul Cooper, 43, of Emmett, Idaho, has prompted the belated formation of an inter-agency working committee in the federal government to direct a country-wide search for those who took part in Operation Smokey.

Officials report that of the 432

participants who have been located to date, at least six are known to be suffering or to have died from leukemia. The percentage is already several times the national average for men in a comparable age group.

Another victim, Donald Coe, a farmer from Tomkinsville, Ken., has filed a claim with the Veterans Administration in which he alleges that his leukemia is service-connected. Coe provided the account of Operation Smokey described above.

A 25-year-old Pfc. at the time of the maneuvers, Coe, now married with seven children, told of his apprehension when he was selected for temporary duty at the Army's Camp Desert Rock. "They told me I was picked because of my security clearance. I didn't want to go, but I was forced to, even though the duty was described as voluntary. They said, 'There's nothing to be concerned about; we're just going to watch an atomic blast.'"

Coe witnessed at least eight atomic "exercises" during his stay at the Nevada installation. "As I lay on the ground," he said of one experience, "I felt a wave of heat pass over my body. It felt like something hot was sticking to me." Despite the Defense Department's claim that no ill effects were reported, Coe says he was hospitalized after the blast with severe headaches, dizziness and bleeding from the nose.

The VA maintains, however, that it cannot locate these hospital records. The agency also contends that Donald Coe absorbed no more radiation than the average person receives from a normal chest X ray. Donald Coe's disability claim has been denied. He is currently appealing with the help of his

Representative and the Disabled American Vets.

A West Coast peace organization, Another Mother for Peace, has also taken up Coe's cause. AMP has charged that the Atomic Energy Commission and the Pentagon were guilty of "criminally inhuman actions in deliberately exposing hundreds of thousands of Americans to atomic bomb radiation." The group is demanding that the government provide service-connected disability payments to those suffering damage from the tests taken and death benefits to their families.

Between July 1945 and June 1976 the U.S. detonated 588 atomic devices, including those used against Japan. The number

of people exposed to radioactivity from these blasts may be quite high. Another Mother for Peace refers to "hundreds of thousands." But Dr. Glyn Caldwell of the National Center for Disease Control, which is investigating the epi-demiological impact of Operation Smokey, puts the total number that may have been exposed at two million.

In an interview with *In These Times* Caldwell said that the preliminary search for Smokey victims has already taken a year. He predicts that the center will need another year to complete its polling and questioning of victims before it will be able to furnish a detailed report. □

*Reprinted from
"In These Times"*

Midwest Workshop On Immigration Denounces Carter's Amnesty Plan

(Chicago, Ill.) It is four in the morning. Two men in uniforms stand in the hallway of a Pilsen two-flat, awaiting an answer to their loud knock. These men in uniforms are not Chicago policemen, they are agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Inside, the loud knock has woke up a young man nearing 30 years of age and his wife. Luckily the children haven't been awakened by the knock. The two look at each other and wonder. In the minute it takes to get to the door a number of scenes flash through the mind of the young man. One is of a cell, crowded with about a dozen other Mexicanos, farmworkers being detained while their papers are being checked. Some-

how, he got by that time.

Another is of riding in the back of a pick-up truck, away from his town near the Texas border, for the last time. Still another is of Mexico City and the shantytown he promised himself he would not take his family to. Finally he goes to the door. On the shelf next to the door is his lunch pail, ready for him to take to the foundry.

Headlines in newspapers across the country announce raid after raid on the homes and workplaces of "illegal aliens." Jimmy Carter has unveiled an amnesty plan for "illegal aliens." With these two words, thousands of people who come to the "land of opportunity" looking for jobs are dehumanized — labeled



Rudi Lozano of CASA: Issuing temporary work permit cards would create "a second class of workers, a serious threat to all American workers."

because they do not have the right papers to be here.

"Undocumented workers" is the term community organizers and progressive-minded people have come to use to describe Mexicanos without papers who, more often than not, are the victims of injustice rather than the cause of unemployment, for which they are blamed.

On Saturday, January 7, 1978 dozens of community organizations and over 400 people came together in Chicago to participate in the Midwest Seminar on Immigration and Community Action. More than anything else, the participants were united in their opposition to the Carter Amnesty Plan.

Conference organizers cited the growing media campaign blaming undocumented workers for the high rates of unemployment in the U.S. By bringing together numerous forces active in Latino communities throughout the midwest, they plan to develop a people's campaign to

educate the general public on the real plight of the undocumented workers.

The Carter Amnesty Plan would grant limited amnesty to undocumented workers who could prove seven years of uninterrupted residence in the U.S. Only temporary work permits would be issued to these workers.

In addition, Carter's plan would fine employers up to \$1,000 for knowingly hiring undocumented workers; provide an additional \$100 million for military equipment and 2000 more border personnel along the Mexican border; and supply economic aid surpassing \$1 billion to Mexico to create jobs there and thereby prevent further immigration.

Speakers at the Conference included Jose Medina of the Centro de Inmigracion, Washington, D.C.; Linda Coronado of CASA, Chicago; Kalman Resnick of the Centro de Inmigracion, Chicago; and Linda Venez, of Chicago.

Very few undocumented workers, they said, would qualify for amnesty under Carter's plan — either not having been in the U.S. seven years or not having proof. Those found disqualified would very likely face immediate deportation. For those who did qualify, the temporary work permits would be creating another "Bracero" program. The Bracero program in the '60's was bitterly opposed by the United Farmworkers because the Braceros, who came across the border for short periods during the harvests, were prevented from joining unions, thus limiting the unionization of the fields and ranches.

Discrimination would increase because employers fearing fed-

eral charges would be reluctant to hire any Latinos. Increased discrimination, coupled with the temporary work permit cards to be issued, would create "a second class of workers, a serious threat to all American workers," charged Rudi Lozano of CASA's Chicago chapter. If the temporary residents would need cards to work, then permanent residents including U.S. citizens might need work permit cards as well, raising the spectre of pass books, a la South Africa, Lozano added.

Increased militarization on the Mexican border would undoubtedly increase tensions between the two countries, according to conference speakers. In addition, a wave of repression would sweep barrio after barrio within the U.S. In fact, they charge, this repression has already escalated since the announcement of the Carter Plan.

Finally, organizers of the conference explained that it was economic aid, in the form of huge investments by multinational corporations based in the U.S., which is the root cause of extremely high levels of unemployment in Mexico and other underdeveloped countries. These investments have resulted in hundreds of thousands of farmers and agricultural workers being thrown off the land because agribusinesses, mining companies and the like are turning more to machinery than to people to get the work done.

Kalman Resnick explained the situation this way: "When the employers want labor, the border is let down for their convenience. Now it is the immigrant workers who are the cause of unemployment. But what about the exportation of jobs by companies such as Zenith?" □

Intercommunal Perspective

Zimbabwe Update — Smith Stalls As Rainy Season Approaches

(Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) Events have been moving very fast in Zimbabwe of late. Last month, the rebel Smith forces butchered hundreds of Zimbabweans at their Chimoio camp in Mozambique.

In Rhodesia, Smith pushed forward with his "internal settlement talks" with Chirau, Muzorewa and Sithole.

In Maputo, the Patriotic Front met and rejected the invitation to them to attend talks with British Foreign Secretary David Owen.

The meetings in Salisbury involving Smith, two Black clergy, and one Black feudalist, on the one hand, and the Maputo parley, on the other, were in sharp contrast, the *Sunday News of Tanzania* reported in a special feature article.

The meeting in Salisbury discussed the possibilities of a "peaceful solution" to the country's constitutional crisis. The meeting in Maputo centered on the need to intensify the armed struggle.

That some African "leaders" in Salisbury should sit at the table with a man who had just murdered hundreds of fellow Africans fighting for liberation was quite treacherous.

And yet there was no chance

of such leaders unto death getting anywhere with a man as racist-minded as Ian Smith who has vowed never to let a Black man "ruin European civilization" in southern Africa.

Smith is a master trickster. His tools include such people as David Owen, Cyrus Vance and Andrew Young. At one time Smith sang the tune of "talks" (at Victoria Falls) so sweetly that it was almost too late when some fighters discovered that they were merely being duped out of the bush.

One British journalist, who has been studying Smith's actions for the past five years, has recently come up with an

interesting revelation.

Smith, the journalist noted, only talks about "talks" when the rainy season is around the corner. This is because during the rains the settler forces are at a great disadvantage in the bush.

But as soon as the season is over, Smith simply turns around and wrecks any "talks" he might have engineered.

The point is that the fighters tend to slow down their offensive when their political leaders are at conference tables, fearing that they might ruin whatever talks might be going on.

But this time Smith is not having it his way. The Patriotic Front meeting in Maputo discussed the London proposal — during this rainy season — and concluded that Owen had nothing left to offer the people of Zimbabwe.

After all, Owen had openly supported Smith's "offer" of elections, totally contrary to what had been proposed in the Anglo-American initiative.



Last month, the rebel Smith forces butchered hundreds of Zimbabweans at their Chimoio camp in Mozambique. This was similar to the massacre of civilians by Smith's troops at Nyazonia (above), where 600 persons were murdered.



Patriotic Front members Robert Mugabe (left) and Joshua Nkomo refused to go to London for talks. Their intention is to establish full control over the liberated zones within Zimbabwe. Smith (right) wants to avoid defeat by stalling whatever "talks" he can set up.

If ZANU's Mugabe and ZAPU's Nkomo were to go to London, the men on the field would tend to slow down, waiting for the outcome of the London meeting.

The nationalists believe the British, the Americans and the White settlers in Rhodesia are working hand-in-hand. If that is true — and there is no evidence to contradict it — the chances are that Owen's interest is to drag the talks until the rainy season is over.

However, the Patriotic Front has made it clear that they will not honor any agreement reached in the "friendly and cordial" meeting in Salisbury. Their intention is to take advantage of the rainy season to establish full control over the liberated zones within the country.

The idea of establishing liberated zones may sound unrealistic. But, in spite of the enormous fire-power which Smith has, the guerrillas are known to be operating almost unimpeded in areas thickly populated with Africans.

A White farmer once boasted:

"No kaffir will drive me out of my country (Rhodesia)." Yet he left the very following morning when a rocket blew his farmhouse to smithereens.

"We will not kill innocent civilians. We will not kill their women and children. But they are killing our children and our women. We are not murderers," said Mugabe in Dar es Salaam early this week.

Although Smith's forces have

raided camps in Mozambique, killing women and children, nationalist leaders believe liberated zones could be defended successfully against such raids.

This rainy season will see guerrillas making major successes on the battlefield, particularly because the Front has refused to be drawn into a round of talks that would certainly slow down the fighting at such a crucial moment as this. □

*Reprinted from
"The Black Panther"*



This rainy season will certainly see guerrillas having major successes on the battlefield.

Entertainment

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER



"Saturday Night Fever" has got action, violence, sex, suicide and the struggle to make money, so the film producers of this world probably decided it would be a hit. A lot of us are going to go and see it because, if you're White and live in the city, and you're poor, it's about us.

The movie is about Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, which, if you say a ghetto is a place where poor and working people live and have a hard time getting out of, is a ghetto. The movie has all the things in it we see every day, as Tony Manero, played by John Travolta, dances, raps and fights

his way through every day. But it doesn't have the one thing most of us never see, but which is always there — the people with the big money.

Tony Manero is your average dude with a talent for stepping out on the disco floor that makes



him a small-time celebrity in the neighborhood. He is trying to put something together in his life, but nothing seems to work out the way he wants. His family looks down on him. They put him down because he's not "making it." He really wants just to have a family that respects and loves him, but he ends up reacting to them, putting them down. He tries to make it at his job at the hardware store, hustling merchandise like it was going out of style, but even when he gets a little recognition, he doesn't see any future for himself.

His main hope of being somebody with some respect is on the dance floor. Looking to make it big in the neighborhood, he steps over a local young sister who idolizes him to partner up with a "high class lady." Trying to get next to his high class lady, he uses one of his best partners, but forgets to help him out with a problem that is putting him up against the wall.

But Tony Manero grows, too. When he and his lady win the big dance contest, he realizes that a Puerto Rican couple should have won. "The thing was fixed. They

couldn't have won in this place, because we run it." So he gives the prize to them. He's confused. The one thing he wanted (or thought he wanted), he got, but he got it because he was part of one group of people trying to step on another group, and it doesn't sit right. He thinks he has done the right thing, but his high class lady won't respond to him, and he tries to rape her. She kicks him in the gut and leaves him feeling sick and stupid. Then he gets in the car with his partners, and they "pull a train" on the local girl who had idolized him and been rejected, while he sits in the front seat not feeling too good about himself.

Finally, they stop by the Brooklyn Bridge. The partner he had used but not stood up for freaks out and is clowning around up on the bridge. Tony tries to stop him. His lifelong buddy just asks him why he "never called" when he was in trouble, keeps clowning around and freaking out, and then falls to his death.

Tony walks around and rides the subways all night. He finally turns up at his girl's apartment

in Manhattan. It turns out she is not really the "high class lady" he thought she was. She is from Brooklyn, putting on a few airs and trying to make it. He makes a few decisions about himself. He decides to act on his own instead of doing what is expected in the neighborhood, instead of living off of trying to put someone else down.

"Can we be friends?" she says. "I don't know. I'll try," he says. And he means it. He means not to live off of being the man, the superstud lover, running a game on the sisters. He means to get away from being the bad dude who will fight the "ricans" as a matter of controlling the neighborhood. And he means to get a job in Manhattan and live like a human being with a woman he respects and likes.

But the woman knows Manhattan. "What are you going to do? What skills have you got?" He hasn't got any. And jobs are not too easy to find — which is why he was in Bay Ridge in the first place. Fact is, the only way the sister got out and got the job in Manhattan was by laying up with some of the junior executives.

So Tony grows. He becomes his own man. He learns to look at people — whether they be Puerto Ricans or women — as human beings. And that's a good lesson. But what about the men with the money — the ones that created the conditions that created Bay Ridge and Tony Manero and his partners and his prejudices? And what are you going to do in Manhattan, Tony Manero? Now that you've learned to be a human being, why don't you come on back to Brooklyn and get the foot of the man with the money off of all our necks? □

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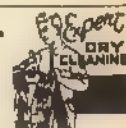
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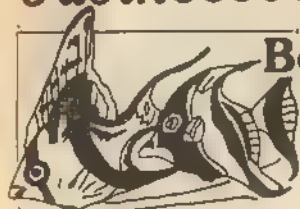
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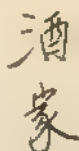
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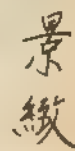
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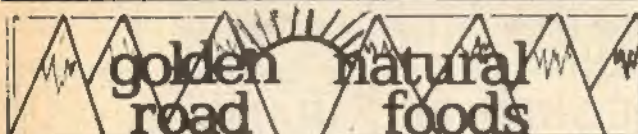
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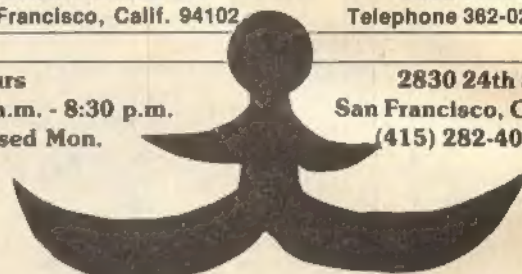
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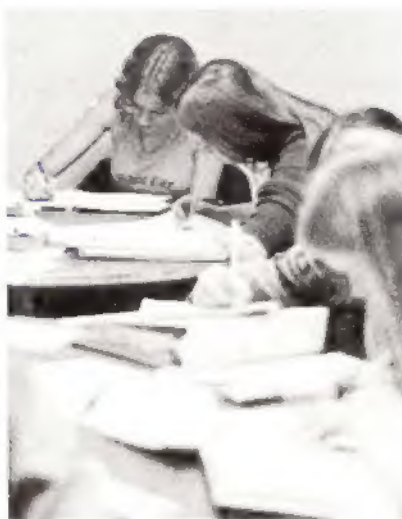
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- Why has Carter called for the establishment of metropolitan government as a solution to our decaying inner cities?
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- Who was Steve Biko, and why was it so important to the South African government to silence him?

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